Sandwell
# CHRONICLE

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## Primary which was in special measures gets top marks

# SCHOOL TURNS ITSELF AROUND

Report by Carl Jackson

**A SCHOOL which was in special measures just two years ago has turned its fortunes around, after being rated outstanding across the board by an education watchdog.**

Kings Hill Primary, in Wednesbury, was given the basement rating of inadequate by Ofsted in 2013.

It had elevated itself to 'requires improvement' in January 2016 which saw it lifted out of special measures but now, following last month's inspection, the school has been rated top of the class.

The regulator gave it the highest rating of outstanding in every key area.

Headteacher Nin Matharu has helped lead the turnaround. She was appointed by Walsall Council to support the school on a part-time basis in September 2014, became interim head by the following January and then the substantive headteacher in September 2016.

Mrs Matharu said: "Everyone at King's Hill is absolutely delighted, proud and so pleased. We are an amazing team here and all staff and pupils have worked incredibly hard to achieve the 'Outstanding' judgement.

### Deserved

"I would like to thank parents for the support that they have shown the school and just to say, the hard work continues. Let's celebrate for now though, what has been achieved and make sure our children get the best education they can possibly get."

Councillor Aftab Nawaz, education chief, added: "This is well deserved and continues to address our key priority of every child in Walsall attending a good or better school.

"It is also a remarkable turnaround as the school went into special measures in November 2013 and was still in special measures just two years ago. This is a proud moment."

While chair of governors Michael Fox said: "The journey from special measures to outstanding has been rapid as a result of experienced, highly effective leadership and management.

"We are proud that we are able to provide an outstanding setting for the pupils of King's Hill to have the best possible start in life and would like to thank Walsall Council for having confidence in the leadership of this school."

## WEDDING DAY JOY FOR BLIND VETERAN GORDON

The happy couple – Walsall blind veteran Gordon Timmins and his new wife Valerie sign the register at their wedding

LOVE will certainly be in the air on Valentine's Day for newlyweds Gordon and Valerie Timmins – who have tied the knot at the ages of 79 and 76.

Blind veteran Gordon, from Great Barr, met his new bride when they were thrown together by chance at a military charity centre in north Wales. He was taking a ceramics course at the Blind Veterans UK rehabilitation centre in Llandudno where Valerie was accompanying her friend, also a blind veteran.

Gordon remembered: "I came into the lounge one evening and the only free seat just happened to be next to Valerie. We hit it off straight away and were roaring with laughter for the entire evening. Since then we've barely spent any time apart."

After a year of dating, widower Gordon proposed to 76-year-old Valerie and the pair wed at Sandwell Register Office surrounded by friends and family in November. He has now moved to Pwllheli to live with Valerie.

Gordon was called up for National Service in 1956 and served in the Army Fire Service (AFS). He was stationed all around the UK and joined the civilian fire service when demobbed in 1958. He lost his sight later in life due to age-related macular degeneration. Widowed in 2014 he found himself battling sight loss alone.

Gordon says: "It was a really difficult time. When I lost my sight, I lost a lot of my confidence and my independence too. I honestly thought my life had ended."

Fortunately Gordon was directed to Blind Veterans UK in 2015.

He added: "The support I've received has completely turned my life around. I'm confident in myself again, I've met so many new friends and to top it off now I've found Valerie. I'm over the moon."

On their wedding day Gordon and Valerie were surprised by Valerie's brother who travelled with his wife from Brazil for the wedding.

COURTS

## Student is found not guilty in murder trial

THE jury in the trial of a man accused of fatally stabbing amateur footballer Ryan Passey during a fight in a Stourbridge nightclub has found the defendant not guilty.

Student Kobe Murray, aged 19, has been cleared after he denied murdering 24-year-old Mr Passey in Chicago's in Stourbridge town centre on August 6 last year. Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley, had claimed he had acted in self-defence. He was found not guilty of murder and not guilty of manslaughter

During the trial at Birmingham Crown Court, the jury has heard differing accounts about who the knife belonged to.

LAUNCH

## Mental health on the agenda for alliance

MORE than 40 services have joined together to launch a project aimed at improving mental health in Sandwell.

The Sandwell Mental Health Alliance will now meet regularly after a launch event.

Chairman of Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board, Councillor Ann Shackleton, said: "The launch was a huge success with more than 70 people from 40 or so services raising awareness of what they have to offer." The alliance's next meeting is now due, with details to be announced.

PLANNING

## Lock-ups may make way for new car park

THE site of former lock-up garages in Oldbury could be turned into a council car park.

Following on from the demolition of eight garages in Cumberland Road, plans have been put forward by Sandwell Council.

Plans state: "Around eight car parking bays will be marked out. The site was previously used to accommodate eight garages however the garages were in a dangerous condition and could not be repaired. For safety reasons the garages have been demolished."

INSIDE

## IN A SPIN OVER FITNESS CRAZE

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# Hearts fly for green effort at reserve

RSPB volunteer Emily White

WHILE red is the traditional colour for romance with Valentine's Day, the RSPB is urging people to go green to show their love for nature this month at Sandwell Valley nature reserve.

As well as being the month for matters of the heart, February is the annual Show The Love campaign by the Climate Coalition, of which the RSPB is a founding member, to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on our natural surroundings and society.

The campaign, began on Monday and carries on to next Wednesday and there are a number of activities taking place.

A special climate change trail has been put up throughout the site, with information on how environmental damage is causing problems for local nature and people.

There will also be a day of climate change-related talks, today, Thursday, including a Q&A with Professor Miles Tight of Birmingham University's Sustainable Cities project.

The national campaign centres around making, wearing and sharing green hearts on social media, posting the images to #ShowTheLove, with the idea of inspiring people to show how much they care about climate change and want to see a shift to clean, secure energy within a generation.

Show The Love project director, Beth Tegg said: "Our changing climate is already making its mark on our landscape and our lives, but it's not too late to protect them. We can have clean and secure energy within a generation if enough of us show we care."

Sandwell Reserve manager, Cathy Taylor said: "We would particularly encourage people to take public transport, or cycle to the reserve in order to save a car journey."

# One-man crime wave 'deserved' sentence

**A ONE man crime wave behind an appalling rash of car-related frauds and robberies deserved every day of his nine-year jail term, top judges ruled.**

Adam Lee Bodycote, aged 29, of Beech Road, Wednesbury, was locked up at Wolverhampton Crown Court on May 12 last year.

In three frauds, Bodycote tried to buy cars by telling a pack of lies, London's Appeal Court heard.

He got £10,500 finance in his brother's name and tried to get his hands on another £6,000, said Mr Justice Dingemans. He also attempted to use an £8,000 cheque taken from his employers in breach of trust.

In another crime, Bodycote offered for sale a £20,000 BMW – which had been stolen by someone else. In December 2016 and January 2017, he arranged to meet sellers of various cars for test-drives, before stealing their vehicles.

### Payment

Bodycote also filled up stolen vehicles with fuel on two occasions before driving off without payment. On January 22 last year, a car owner attempted to stop him driving off and held desperately onto his vehicle. Mr Justice Dingemans said the total value of vehicles stolen and handled was £96,000. Bodycote admitted three frauds, three robberies, seven thefts and one count of handling stolen goods.

He also pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, two counts of making off without payment and five of driving whilst disqualified. He had 11 previous convictions for 53 crimes, the court heard. His lawyers argued that his overall jail term was far too harsh and should be reduced.

But Mr Justice Dingemans said it was 'serious, persistent, planned and sometimes dangerous offending'. "In our judgment the appeal should be dismissed," ruled the judge, sitting with Lady Justice Macur and Judge Neil Bidder QC.

## Historic Toll House under the hammer

The property in High Street, Smethwick, which has been a feature of the town since 1820

A BLACK Country landmark dating back 200 years has been put up for sale. The historic Toll House, in High Street, Smethwick, will be offered for sale at a property auction next week.

Bidders have been told it is their opportunity to get their hands on a 'little piece of local history', which has been a fixture on the High Street since 1820. The Toll House was most recently used as an art gallery and glass making studio. It is set to go under the hammer with auctioneers SDL Bigwood on February 15 and carries a guide price of between £44,000 and £48,000.

It has been suggested the building, which features a blue plaque in recognition of its historical significance, could be converted for residential use but Sandwell Council said they would prefer it to be saved for community use.

It had been mooted the landmark could become a shop or cafe.

Ian Tudor, from SDL Bigwood, said: "There is a unique opportunity to acquire a little piece of history with this toll house which was constructed in or around 1820 on part of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley turnpike which operated from 1760-1876.

"The former Toll House and coach house are Grade II-listed and part of the local conservation area." Alison Knight, Sandwell's executive director for neighbourhoods, said: "The council has prepared a schedule of works that the purchaser will have to comply with."

# Green space to revamp due after £44k boost

A HIDDEN green space in Oldbury is set to get nearly £50,000 of improvements.

Brades Green open space on Dudley Road East isn't visible from the road, but – thanks to some funding – new signs, landscaping and other improvements will soon be revealing it to the passing public.

The £44,000 project, funded by Section 106 money from the planning process, will make it safer and easier for people to find and use the green space.

Cabinet member Councillor Paul Moore said: "Most people walking past won't even know it's there, so we want to make sure it's easier for people to access and use this space.

"These improvements are going to really open up this small park and hopefully encourage people to use it."

As part of the work, a number of damaged trees will be removed and undergrowth will be cleared. A new entrance gate will also be added.

New signs at either end of the park and a small landscaped seating area will be installed. The work is expected to be completed next month. Oldbury Town Lead Councillor Suzanne Hartwell added: "Anything we can do to improve our open spaces and encourage people to use them is a good thing."

# Celebration for HOME project

A SPECIAL event is being held in West Bromwich Town Hall on February 20 to celebrate the completion of a project researching the untold stories of multi-cultural communities.

The symposium event runs at the hall in High Street from 12 noon to 4pm and 5pm to 8pm and will showcase local heritage and culture.

HOME: Heart of Sandwell (Routes to Roots) was intended to give a voice to under represented cultures by capturing their stories in audio and film in order to produce a heritage montage that will be an official historical document for Sandwell Archives.

The event will include interactive workshops, a cultural catwalk and talks on the project. It will also see the launch of the HOME website.

# Craft activities for children at museum

FREE nature-themed craft activities will be on offer for youngsters later this month. Staff from the RSPB will be at Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath from 11am until 3pm on February 21. For further details call the museum on 01384 569 444.


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# Carillion collapse: 452 more jobs to go

CARILLION workers from across the Black Country are among 452 to lose their jobs in the latest wave of redundancies at the collapsed firm.

The cuts came in the wake of almost 400 axed roles last week, and brings the total number of job losses to 829.

The Official Receiver's office said the latest wave involved people from Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell, Staffordshire – including South Staffordshire and Cannock Chase – as well as from Telford and Shropshire.

It is not known how many jobs have been lost among the 400 at the failed company's headquarters in Wolverhampton city centre, or among those working on the £350 million Midland Metropolitan Hospital scheme at Smethwick.

Carillion was the main contractor on the hospital but building work on the site has been at a standstill since the company was placed in liquidation three weeks ago.

The Official Receiver's spokesman said that the latest losses were among staff working on private and public contracts across the whole of the country, as well as back-office workers. A spokesperson for the Official Receiver said: "As part of the ongoing liquidation of the Carillion group, we have reviewed additional public and private sector contracts."

# Store shoppers in £10k poppy boost

SHOPPERS at Sainsbury's Oldbury store have raised more than £10,000 for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

It takes the total raised by Sainsbury's customers across the UK to more than £3 million in 2017. Donations took place in store last October and November.

Katy Bradshaw-Sole, store manager at Sainsbury's Oldbury, said: "Our local community always get behind the Poppy Appeal and each year our customers and colleagues continue to dig deep to support the charity. We're thrilled to have raised such a huge amount for The Royal British Legion and look forward to seeing what the future holds for the 23 year partnership."

# Relatives appeal

RELATIVES of a 76-year-old man who died at home are being traced by the local authority. Anthony George Stubbs died at his Tipton home in Burberry Court, Shakespeare Road, on January 26.

# Velo will be riding high again next spring

The Birmingham Velo, returning in 2019

THE Birmingham Velo will not be held this year, organisers have announced, after the event divided opinion in the Black Country and Staffordshire last year.

The event will instead return in 2019, when it will be moved from Autumn to Spring and see cyclists tackle a different route. The ride was held for the first time in September but attracted criticism from residents and business owners due to road closures in parts of the Black Country, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham.

Businesses were forced to shut while saboteurs left nails and tacks on the route, including in Bobbington and Swindon, putting the safety of riders at risk. Details of next year's route are yet to be revealed but will be announced in the coming months, event organisers said.

Around 15,000 riders took part in the 100-mile route last year, in what is believed to be the UK's second biggest closed-road cycling event ever. It raised £2 million for charity.

The 2019 event will take place earlier in the year when there is more daylight, , the organisers said. Jon Ridgeon, chairman of event organisers CSM Active, said: "It was clear to us that some changes would be necessary if the event was to reach its long-term potential. Together with our partners Birmingham City Council, we are determined to ensure that this wonderful event continues to develop and evolve.

"The move from September to the Spring along with the new route will provide us with a fantastic, sustainable long-term platform from which to grow in years to come."

# Police probe claims of bullying and sexism

**WEST Midlands Police has delayed a council probe into bullying and sexism while it conducts its own investigation.**

The authority's former assistant chief executive Melanie Dudley lodged a complaint in October concerning allegations that Councillor Richard Marshall sent offensive Whatsapp messages about her to a local blogger.

But the force said it had blocked the council from looking into the matter until a police investigation was complete.

Melanie Dudley

A police spokesman said on Tuesday: "West Midlands Police is aware of concerns raised in relation to posts on an internet blog. We have viewed the comments at length and an investigation is ongoing.

"We have advised the council that they may wish to wait for the outcome of any police investigation before pursuing any misconduct matters internally."

Ms Dudley has complained over the length of time taken to deal with her complaint, and accused the council of putting it to 'the bottom of the pile'.

It was raised in Parliament last month by James Morris, the Tory MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, who said the messages came from Councillor Marshall, but followed a meeting with Mr Eling, who said he wanted to 'open a line of communication' with the blogger.

Ms Dudley left her role in 2016 following an overhaul of senior management at the crisis-hit authority.

She said she was 'surprised and disappointed' with the lack of progress on her case, which council leader Steve Eling has put down to police involvement. "I am very unhappy about the length of time this is taking," she added. "To sit on this for four months is astonishing."

## Town and Munich united for Duncan

**MP Ian Austin signed the remembrance book for Duncan Edwards, alongside the statue dedicated to him in Dudley town centre. Alongside side him is Rose Cook Monk who headed to Munich with the book**

'MANCHESTER, Munich and Dudley will forever be united.' That was the moving final tribute in a special book of remembrance for Black Country hero Duncan Edwards.

Rose Cook-Monk handed the book over in the German city to mark the 60th anniversary of the Munich air crash on Tuesday.

The tireless campaigner, from Dudley, who also made a film about Duncan's life, offered her own moving tribute to the legend on the last page of the book.

She wrote: "On behalf of the Duncan Edwards Foundation, our Mayor Councillor Dave Tyler and the people of Dudley, I am proud to hand over the book of remembrance dedicated to Duncan.

"We are immensely proud of Duncan, his achievements and the wonderful person he was."

People from all over the country have signed the book in honour of football legend Duncan.

It was handed over as part of the poignant commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the air disaster in the German city.

Manchester United and England legend Duncan was one of

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Murder probe on dead man in flat

A MURDER investigation was launched after a man was found dead after a fight at a Birmingham bedsit.

The victim was found badly beaten following reports of a row at the flat in Small Heath last Tuesday night. Officers were called to a house in Mansel Road at 7.10pm. A man was found unconscious and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Det Ch Insp Edward Foster, from West Midlands Police, said: "Clearly we are at an early stage of the enquiry but we understand there was a fight inside the address.

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 quoting log number 2151 30/1.

### Wedding fair due at Lightwoods

LOVED up couples are invited to a wedding fair next month at Lightwoods House in Bearwood. Wedding suppliers will be exhibiting their wares and couples can also look round the house and gardens, which is in Adkins Lane, on Sunday March 18.

Suppliers will include photographers, venue decorators, wedding car suppliers, a dressmaker and florist.

Admission to the fair, which runs from 11am until 3pm, is free.

For more details, go to www.lightwoodsparkandhouse.co.uk or email lightwoods_house@sandwell.gov.uk

### Get wrapped up in fundraising

ONE of Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity's largest annual fundraising events is returning this year. Big Bandage Day is on March 9.

Urging supporters to be brave in bandages, the charity is asking people to step out of their comfort zone and take on a brave challenge in support of the hospital's many courageous youngsters.

From a sponsored abseil on March 10, to braving the shave and going bald in aid of the charity, organisers say there are many ways to join in. Log onto www.bch.org.uk/bb18

### Council backs £9m for new school

COUNCIL bosses have approved more than £9million to fund the first stage of a new school. Sandwell Council gave the go-ahead at its latest cabinet meeting for building work to start on a new 750-place secondary school at Kelvin Way, West Bromwich.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services, said: "This is really exciting for Sandwell."

It is hoped the first students will be taken in by September 2019.

## COUNTY NEWS

### £10,000 boost for RBL appeal

SHOPPERS at Sainsbury's have raised £10,000 for The Royal British Legion's (RBL) Poppy Appeal.

The amount raised by customers at the Oldbury store in October and November helped raise the UK's 2017 total to more than £3 million.

Katy Bradshaw-Sole, store manager at Sainsbury's Oldbury, said: "Our community always get behind the Poppy Appeal and each year our customers and colleagues continue to dig deep for the charity.

"We are thrilled to have raised such a huge amount for the Royal British Legion and look forward to seeing what the future holds."

### Number of falls at hospitals reduced

THERE has been a 30 per cent reduction in falls at Black Country hospitals. The Safety Plan, which was introduced at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in January last year, involves clinical staff completing 10 safety checks when assessing a patient.

Statistics show the number of falls resulting in an injury has decreased by 30 per cent a week as a result of the plan being implemented across the trust. Figures also show 99 per cent of patients are receiving all 10 checks within 24 hours following admission.

Chief Nurse Elaine Newell said: "This is all about our patients."

### Airport trials aid for blind in toilet

BIRMINGHAM Airport has become the first in the UK to fit the revolutionary RoomMate, an audio description unit for the visually impaired, in one of its disabled access toilets.

It provides an audio description of the facility for blind and visually impaired users.

Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) Manager, Ed Kibblewhite said: "We have since invited several groups to trial the RoomMate with us and look forward to their feedback."

### Extra day a week at legion's Break Away

A LUNCH and social activity club for older people is opening an extra day each week – Friday – from March 1.

Break Away, at the Royal British Legion, Summerhill, Kingswinford, is currently open on Mondays and Thursdays between 9am and 4pm.

Anyone interested is welcome to pop in and have a chat or can get further information by contacting Jenny Bates on 07487 404882.

# Chiefs' silver joy in staff awards

SANDWELL Council is proud to announce that it has been awarded the highly-prized Silver accreditation by Investors in People.

Investors in People (IIP) is an internationally-recognised measure of excellent people management practices.

The council has held IIP accreditation for the past 18 years but the council is even more proud with the latest award because only five per cent of organisations assessed are awarded the Silver standard.

This recognition showcases the council's commitment to continually improve and build on its previous success of achieving Bronze accreditation in 2014.

As part of their feedback, IIP highlighted the fact that "noticeable progress" had been made at the council since the last assessment.

As the only council in the West Midlands to be given this accolade, it highlights Sandwell's ambition to create a national reputation for being an excellent employer.

The challenging, independently-led assessment sought views from staff and their managers on a range of aspects including the council's approach for leading, managing and developing people effectively; promoting equality of opportunity; improving performance; planning learning and development; and people being involved in decision making. The council was particularly praised for its ability to create sustainable success, something which is at the heart of its Vision 2030 initiative.

Councillor Steve Trow, core council services chief, said: "We are very proud of this achievement."

# Borough's maternity services under fire

By Richard Guttridge

**MATERNITY services in Sandwell have been rated among the worst in the country – by mothers who have used them.**

The trust which runs Sandwell and City Hospitals has been judged to be among the three worst performing in the country following a survey, according to watchdog the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Bosses at the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust have apologised to women who did not receive the level of care they expected.

However, health officials also pointed to a low response rate of just 24 per cent, which they suggested could have impacted on the results.

### Satisfied

Women were asked their views in a range of areas on maternity as part of the 2017 Maternity Experience Survey, including whether they were satisfied with their care and if they had been left alone at any point while giving birth.

The Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust said it had launched a fresh survey in the hope of reaching more mothers.

The CQC's Chief Inspector of Hospitals, Professor Edward Baker, has written to the trust over the results.

Rachel Carter, director of midwifery at the Sandwell trust, said: "Although disappointed with the response rate of this survey, we are happy to receive both positive comments and suggestions for improvement.

"In particular, we were pleased to see an improvement since the previous survey from 2015 in relation to the length of time women have during antenatal appointments to ask questions or discuss their pregnancy."

## School nursing service gets high praise

Far right, Councillor Elaine Costigan with members of Sandwell's school nursing team and Phoenix Collegiate students, representing the School Nurse Ambassador Project

MEMBERS of Sandwell's School Nursing Service have been praised for the work they do. Councillor Elaine Costigan, public health and protection chief, visited the school nursing team to talk to them and learn more about the support they provide to Sandwell's children, young people and families.

The team, based at The Lyng Medical Centre, West Bromwich has two key roles: to give confidential advice, care and support to schools, children, young people and their parents and carers; and to promote the physical health and emotional health of young people.

Councillor Costigan also met a dozen Year 9 students from Phoenix Collegiate, West Bromwich who are members of the School Nurse Ambassador Project (SNAP) which is also run by the School Nursing Service.

As ambassadors, they promote the role of the school health nurse in their own school to fellow students. As a result they learn about public health in relation to the school community, develop communication skills and build confidence.

Councillor Costigan, said: "I was genuinely shocked and surprised at the sheer scope of the work that is carried out by the school nursing team to help and support our young people. I am extremely proud of the service."

# Campaign launched to find funding for statue

A FUNDRAISING campaign has been launched to raise the final cash needed to complete a bronze statue honouring Albion's Three Degrees.

Project organisers need a final £38,000 to complete the delayed statue which is set to be installed in West Bromwich – in tribute to Laurie Cunningham, Brendon Batson and Cyrille Regis.

Murry Toms, who launched the fundraising campaign on Crowdfunder, said there is a new sense of urgency following Cyrille Regis' death and with the 40th anniversary of the Three Degrees first game fast approaching.

Murry, who works for Crowdfunder, said: "I think the fundraising campaign is a way for supporters to finish off the statue and to say thank you to Cyrille for the role he played in the 70s in paving the way for black players to get into game.

"Cyrille was involved in the project since day one, but unfortunately he can't see it to the end."

Murry, who works for Crowdfunder which is a fundraising platform, kick-started the campaign after hearing that the statue was not far off completion. He got in touch with Jim Cadman, who set up the project, before launching the project, which was so far cost £220,000.

The Crowdfunder page has raised more than £1,000 but the deadline of the campaign will end on February 19.

Sculptor Graham Ibbeson has been working on the project in the past five years.

To donate, visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/celebration-statue

### Life-saving Pcs are honoured

TWO police officers who brought a dying man back from the brink of death have been awarded national life-saving honours. Pcs Ian Lissemore, aged 44, and Michael Reynolds, 29, have each been awarded Royal Humane Society resuscitation certificates.

The two officers were called to a house in Bradley Road, Shard End, after a man collapsed and stopped breathing. When they arrived they found paramedics struggling to administer cardiac pulmonary resuscitation and at the same time trying to get equipment from their ambulance up a narrow stairwell.

PCs Lissemore and Reynolds immediately took over CPR for 15 minutes, managing to restart the man's heart, while the medics got their equipment together.

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# Christmas crackdown by officers nets drivers

HUNDREDS of suspected drink and drug drivers were caught during the Christmas period, as police cracked down hard on "reckless" motorists putting lives at risk.

Officers from West Midlands Police and the Central Motorway Police Group arrested 251 drivers for being over the alcohol limit through December, and 40 for being under the influence of drugs. The highest alcohol recording was 184 micrograms in 100 millilitres of breath – more than five times the legal limit.

West Midlands PCC David Jamieson said: "People driving under the influence of drink or drugs are a menace on our roads. They put their own and other people's lives at risk.

"Drinking alcohol then driving is the most dangerous thing a driver can do. I've seen first-hand the damage drink and drug driving can have, that is why I'm pleased that in the latest campaign nearly 300 reckless drivers were caught.

"The overwhelming majority of law-abiding motorists are appalled at drink driving and will backing the action taken against a small minority to make our roads safer."

Inspector Jack Boardman, who led operation, said: "It is completely unacceptable to get behind the wheel while under the influence of drink or drugs. It increases the risk of a collision and such irresponsible actions can put the safety of yourself and other road users at risk of serious injury or even death."

# Homes sell-off a lousy deal – MP

A GOVERNMENT decision to sell off military housing in 1996 has been branded 'a lousy deal' for taxpayers and troops, said a Black Country MP.

The Ministry of Defence lost up to £4.2bn by selling 55,000 service homes to Annington Property Limited, according to a report by the National Audit Office.

John Spellar, the Labour MP for Warley, who warned against the sale at the time, said: "Unfortunately I was proved right. It was a lousy deal for both the taxpayer and our brave troops. This was unfortunately not only entirely predictable but predicted."

The report adds that the Government now faces a battle to avoid paying billions of pounds to Annington's private equity fund in a new negotiation over renting back the estate to accommodate servicemen and women.

Annington Homes, which is managed by the Terra Firma group, is expected to demand a huge increase in rent from the MoD when the agreement ends in 2021.

# Town's local heroes to be recognised

Launching the Wednesbury awards

NOMINATIONS are now open for the Wednesbury Community Awards – a chance to celebrate Wednesbury people who help improve the town.

It's an opportunity for local people to be recognised for their outstanding contributions to the town and its people.

The awards panel is seeking nominations for six categories to recognise the work of people in the community and voluntary sector in the Friar Park, Wednesbury North and Wednesbury South wards.

The categories are: Outstanding Volunteer Award, Outstanding Young Person Award and Outstanding Good Neighbourhood Award, for someone who has helped their neighbours.

There is a Community Project Award, for a scheme that has made a difference in the town, and a Community Special Award for an individual who has contributed positive lifelong service. The Outstanding Partnership Award is for someone (or a group) where partnership working has made a positive contribution to local people.

To nominate local people, go to the awards website www.wednesburycommunityawards.com by February 23. Councillor Pam Hughes, town lead member for Wednesbury, said: "This awards scheme is an excellent way of rewarding people for the outstanding work that they do in the town.

"Wednesbury has a great tradition for community-minded people getting involved in voluntary work and the panel is anxious to recognise the work they do as individuals or in a group."

Selected finalists will be invited to an awards evening to be held on Thursday 15 March at Wednesbury Town Hall.

# Super hospital may cost millions more, says chief

**A NEW 'super hospital' could cost tens of millions of pounds more than first thought following the collapse of Carillion, it has emerged.**

The construction of the Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Smethwick has been thrown into chaos after the company which had been building it went bust.

Health bosses have admitted they do not know when work on the major hospital project will restart and said there is 'potential for significant delay' on the scheme which is already a year behind schedule.

Work on the Midland Met, which has risen into the skyline on Grove Lane and is around three-quarters built, stopped after Carillion went into liquidation two weeks ago, sparking a crisis for health chiefs in Sandwell. It was due to open in summer 2019 but the collapse of Carillion has thrown its opening up in the air.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which will run the Midland Met, revealed the project could now cost more than the amount bid by Carillion. It had been expected to cost around £350 million.

In a report to trust board members, Mr Lewis said: "The deeply regrettable collapse of Carillion occasions the potential for significant delay to the opening of the new hospital. A series of other Carillion companies are following into liquidation, which impact both the financing model and the provision of hard facilities management services.

"Under the terms of our contract, Hospital Company have a responsibility for creating a timely solution to this circumstance. The cost of the new hospital may be judged to exceed the bid made by Carillion, and contracted by the trust, and as such funding parties will need to cover this provision.

"We need to be explicit that this does reflect remotely on the trust or public services as we have sought the same outcome and hospital from contract to now."

Mr Lewis said he was keen for the hospital to be delivered in 'rapid time' but said a 'running commentary' and 'blithe reassurance' would be 'unhelpful'.

# In a spin for new cycling fitness

Councillor Moore and Ash Rai are put through their paces by Portway instructor Natasha Jackson

OLDBURY fitness enthusiasts can get on their bikes (literally!) for the latest 'immersive cycling experience'. Last Monday a £160,000 state-of-the-art spin studio opened up for business at Portway Lifestyle Centre.

The new Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) offering, which will also double up as a top quality dance fitness studio, features 24 top-of-the-range Life Fitness Spin Bikes with an exciting colour coded system to maximise output – a virtual indoor cycling system that allows first timers and experienced spinners alike to experience world level classes with and without an instructor.

Apart from being fully immersive, the sessions at the Newbury Lane centre will also be fully inclusive with wheelchair accessible features provided too.

Ash Rai, CEO of SLT, says: "This innovative technology puts Portway a step ahead of its competitors." For details visit www.slt-leisure.co.uk/our-centres/portway-lifestyle-centre/ Call: 0300 012 0121 (Press 1, Press 5, Press 1) or email the facility at: Portwayinfo@slt-leisure.co.uk

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bostin' support for the needy

A CAFE has donated a hamper for a food bank run by a nearby church.

Kind-hearted customers and workers at Sam's Bostin Bites in Highgate Street, Old Hill handed over food and toiletries during December and were able to present a bumper hamper to St James' Church.

Both the cafe and the church are in Highgate Street. Sam Devonport, cafe owner, said: "We are always looking at ways to help the local community, and this hamper was for a great cause."

Sam's Bostin Bites has now begun a new food bank collection. Any donations will be gratefully received of in-date tins, dry goods and toiletries.

### Woman found in road after crash

A WOMAN was discovered lying in the road with serious injuries after a car hit her in Birmingham. Paramedics were called to the junction of William Cook Road and St Margarets Road in Ward End, Birmingham, shortly after 5.30pm last Tuesday.

The woman, in her 40s, had reportedly been crossing the road when she was hit. She suffered a back injury, as well as serious pelvic and leg injuries.

Ambulance crews gave her pain relief and oxygen to ease her discomfort before taking her to the major trauma centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

### New chapter in country blues

AN alternative country blues band fronted by international best-selling author R. J. Ellory and former ELO man Martin Smith will be putting on their first ever Midlands gig at a Sandwell library.

The Whiskey Poets will be at Blackheath Library on Saturday February 10 at 7pm. Doors open 6.30pm.

Tickets for the event, which also includes a fish/sausage and chips meal and a licensed bar, cost £8 for adults and £3 for children. Without the meal they cost £5 for adults and children are free.

### Street runner for 10k charity event

THE West Midlands Mayor will be hitting the street after signing up to a 10k charity run.

Andy Street will take part in the Black Country Road Run on July 1.

H said: "I am very much looking forward to taking part in this event which promises to be a great occasion.

"Not only will it be a great event for runners but will also raise money for many good causes in the Black Country and beyond."

## IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

# It's just criminal to penalise for 31mph

IF a pollster stopped you in the street and asked about your priorities for crime and policing, what would you say?

Violent crime? Putting away more burglars? Getting tough on anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and graffiti?

Or maybe you would reply: "All of these things are important, but I understand that in these days of stretched resources you can't do everything. So what I would really like is to nick motorists for doing 31mph."

I suspect the latter represents something of a minority viewpoint. But last week, just days after recording a 13 per cent rise in overall crime, and a 16 per cent increase in violent crime, the chief constable of West Mercia Police decided the burning issue was petty speeding offences.

Actually I suspect he knows full well that is not the view of the public. But there seems to be a culture among the higher echelons of most of our public services these days that their role is not to implement the will of the people, but to "change our attitudes and perceptions."

If we think burglary or yobbish behaviour is more important than straying fractionally over the speed limit, then we are clearly in need of a bit of education. Worked a treat in the old Eastern bloc.

Indeed, Mr Bangham says he wants to create a climate where the public feels embarrassed rather than aggrieved when being hit with a speeding fine, and up to a point I agree. But I think this approach will do exactly the opposite.

Think about how different attitudes to speeding were 30 or so years ago. Learner drivers were told it was ok to do up to 35mph "to keep up with the traffic", and police usually allowed people a margin of 10mph before stopping them.

But the thing was back then, if you did get caught, it really did mark you down as a bit of an idiot. Everyone knew you were driving irresponsibly and deserved all you got.

If we start penalising every single driver who strays one mph over the limit – which is basically every single driver – that stigma is gone. It becomes nothing more than a lottery, putting the self-centred boy racer in the same bracket as the little old lady on her way to a whist drive.

Mr Bangham has now sought to "clarify" the recent comments, and assures us officers will not be targeting drivers for trivial speeding infringements after all. Good.

Because if everyone is liable to be done for speeding, where's the embarrassment in that?

## Getting in a state over a visit from US President

Stephen Fry – how much of this anger is genuinely about Trump

Donald Trump – how many demonstrators would turn out anytime to bash America

Lord Adonis – sneering at entire city and dancing on grave of a stricken company?

# Playing Trump card – or just snobbery?

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

STEPHEN Fry is leading the campaign for "the most incredible protest in history" when Donald Trump makes his state visit to Britain. But how much of this anger is genuinely about Trump and how much is simply the latest manifestation of the anti-Americanism which has been festering in British society ever since we lost the War of Independence 235 years ago? It is a sneering snobbery, based on the conviction that European nations are civilised, wise and cultured while America is vulgar, brash and far too powerful. At its heart it is all about old nations envying the success of a new nation. And I wonder how many of the "anti-Trump" demonstrators would turn out at any opportunity to bash America, no matter who was the president. One of our national treasures said in an interview 10 years ago: "When they mock America for its supposed lack of knowledge, irony or sophistication, they are revealing nothing but the pathetic inadequacy and inferiority complex of the British. I absolutely hate that sneering anti-Americanism." The national treasure? Stephen Fry, since you ask.

A READER asks why it is that the latest cooking fad, Himalayan salt crystals, have lain "undisturbed beneath the mountains for one hundred million years" but come with a "best before" date of December 2018.

ONE or two old softies took me to task for suggesting serial burglars should be taken into a field and shot. I wonder whether this week's report on the armed raider known as the Night Watcher who is targeting homes in southern England, terrifying householders and stealing their valuables changes any minds. Simple question: would the world be a better or a worse place if Chummie was no longer with us? Anyway, if he really is a soldier he'll understand the concept of the firing squad.

MY RECENT item on sneering at Americans reminds me of a pal who has recently had facial surgery and complains that, because of the stitches, he can no longer sneer with both sides of his mouth. My research suggests that he probably never could. Try it. Curl your lip into the sneeriest sneer you can manage and then try it with the other side of your mouth. It seems most people are one-sided sneerers. The explanation may be that, once you start sneering in childhood, you choose one side and the muscles on the other side "forget" how to curl. I dare say there are ambidextrous sneerers but I have yet to meet one.

I WROTE recently about how a friend and I had different memories of the same event, a trip to the North Pole. A reader is reminded of his amazement in discovering that he had been at the same 1980s David Bowie concert in Milton Keynes as a lifelong friend. It turned out they both remembered the heat, the expensive bottled water and the four-hour delay in leaving the car park. But both had forgotten a significant fact. My reader went home and related the amazing coincidence to his wife who replied with a mixture of bemusement and pity: "Yes, I drove us all down in the car."

DID you spot the symbol the stars wore at the Grammys to show their solidarity with the campaign against sexual harassment? It was a white rose which also happens to be the symbol of Britain's right-on capital of liberal, gender-neutral and progressive thinking. Yorkshire. Put that kettle on, luv.

YOU may be aware that Lord Adonis, unaccountable architect of the detested HS2 and unelected crusader to overturn Brexit, is not one of my favourite people. He reinforces that status with his infamous recent tweet: "Wolverhampton, political base of Enoch Powell in the 60s and a huge Leave majority, is HQ to just one large company, Carillion!" Strange man. He seems to be sneering at an entire city while simultaneously snarling at Brexiters and dancing on the grave of a stricken company. They ought to put him in a circus for crotchety old people. But then that's exactly where he is.

I AM coping with this new online spell-check but it does make some odd connections. Who, in the name of sanity, thinks when I type "someone's" I may have intended to type "Simeon's"?

YOU have to admire the brass neck of Thomas Cook in blatantly turning sunbeds from a holiday entitlement into a paid-for extra. We were presumably supposed to cheer the travel firm's introduction of guaranteed, pre-hired sunbeds at holiday resorts. 'The end of the battle for the sunbed' crowed one headline. But at £22 a time? It is outrageous. How long before they start charging you for a seat in the dining room?

AFTER the death of Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad was announced, I received a flurry of emails from folk joking that he ought to be buried in a flat-pack coffin. Maybe I'm getting old but it struck me as in rather poor taste.

## TALKING POINT

# No honey, I'm just being nice – not sexist

"THAT'S £3.50 please sweetheart."

"Thanks love, have a good day."

That could be a scene from any retail outlet at any time of the day. Yet how far can we go with pleasantries?

I ask, because walking through the centre of Wolverhampton, I encountered a hand-written notice. "A word of kindness can make someone's day."

The sentiment I wholeheartedly agree with, but not everyone may take your compliments the right way.

One rail commuter took to Twitter to express her disgust over what she called rude and misogynistic behaviour by a rail company official who had the cheek to address her as 'honey.'

Feeling patronised, she condemned the alleged put-down as 'everyday sexism'.

The company's reply – instead of an explanation or apology, she was asked if she'd prefer to be called 'pet' or 'love' next time – was probably ill-advised, but this only serves to act as a warning to others who may be easily offended by terms of endearment.

The company did apologise for what it had intended to be a light-hearted response and, while I do believe the commuter had a genuine complaint to make about the level of service, I personally think she should get a grip.

In an age when we are told that chivalry is dead, I wonder whether the same woman would complain if a 'gentleman' let her on or off the train first or held the door open for her.

From my own point of view, I have no problem with anyone I am dealing with calling me 'sweetheart', for example, they are only being polite after all. I wouldn't express the same platitudes in return as affectionate terms are only reserved for my other half. But their words will be appreciated and I will always be civil – I think please and thank you should be key words in everyone's vocabulary.

However, and this brings me back to the sign in Wolverhampton, who's to say no-one would be offended if I did call someone 'darling' for instance?

As a bloke dishing out niceties to a woman there's always the possibility that your intentions could be misread. If I tell someone their hair looks good that day or their outfit suits them, I would expect most right-minded people to take that as it is, a compliment.

We all like to be told something good about ourselves and I think one ought to tell, during face-to-face interaction at least, whether someone is being sincere or sinister. It's sad that some people can't always see it that way.

MARK SHIPP

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# Chief cannot speak for the rate payers

I FIND myself at odds with Councillor Eling, how can he and others speak for the rate payers and householders of Sandwell, without any kind of consultation on such a large expenditure of leisure funds? He stated that we are proud to be part of an estimated expenditure of £60m on a new leisure centre, I repeat, £60 million, which of course will probably double by the time its finished.

Not once has any councillor asked my opinion or the opinions of any persons I know. Personally I think that this money could be better spent elsewhere. But the leisure centre will be built, of that I have no doubt, hopefully it will cater for all of Sandwell residents, this includes access to all the amenities. He suggested that there would be a gym, solely for the use by women, whether this is because of their physical appearance, medical or religious grounds.

This idea would not go down well in today's climate of equality. So I suggest that men be allowed the same privilege. As not all men have a six-pack, some may have an underlying health problem or just be fat, which they would prefer not to share with the opposite gender. Councillor Eling, along with Ash Rai are still keeping us in the dark as to how much of this estimated £60 million, will actually come out of the Sandwell Leisure Budget and how much will be coming out of Birmingham's Leisure Budget.

I suppose there will be a few OBEs, etc, flying around for the organisers over the next few years, so let's hope that the powers that be recognise the little people who do all the work, and not the ones who are getting paid.

**KEITH V JOYCE**
Wednesbury

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**POST**
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

**EMAIL**
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

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ipso. For press freedom with responsibility

# What are figures on homeless?

DOES anyone have the true figures of how many people are sleeping rough be it locally or nationally?

What we do know is the figure is growing and without even bothering to listen to the politicians, we all know that with universal benefits being rolled out then so does the bed roll.

The delay in assessments and payments has driven people into rent and council tax arrears, food banks might put some food on the table but it doesn't put heat under the pan or light in the kitchen.

It might come as a surprise to MPs there isn't a tax free allowance on universal credit, but the political arguments pale into insignificance, when you are curled up in a doorway and your only friend an old mutt on a bit of string is all you've got. A sad indictment of 21st century Britain, our politicians should hang their heads in shame.

**S T VAUGHAN**
Yardley Wood

# Hats off for answer on safety of scooters

IN his recent letter about helmet use, Peter Cole asked the question "do the laws of the road not apply to people in motorised wheelchairs?" As far as I am aware, the use of a helmet is only compulsory for riders of motorcycles, mopeds and scooters. Motorised wheelchairs and even road legal quad bikes can be used on public roads without a helmet.

So, the answer to your question is no, they are not above the law as they are not obliged to use a helmet. Is Mr Cole aware of any head injuries being sustained by the users of these vehicles? If you argue that helmets should be worn, then would this also cover the drivers and passengers of soft top and convertible cars?

**R MASON**
Tividale

# Sort out problems of traffic

SO the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street is taking a similar tactic as his London counterpart.

Dashing round the Birmingham and West Midlands conurbation like 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' his last statement was to 'Tax all those dirty diesels off the road'. How can Messrs Khan and Street charge vehicles of all descriptions congestion and emission fees when the reason for the congestion is their inability to provide a good regular free-flow of traffic.

How many days in a week can motorists, buses, LGVs get from their homes or depots and arrive on time at their workplace and delivery points? Very few! Get the traffic flowing to end congestion and emissions.

Whilst you contemplate your next attack on road users what about a municipal LGV car park with proper facilities for LGVs, safe, clean and good food.

**MALCOLM SAXON**
Tipton


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# £60m Commonwealth Games aquatics centre gets backing

**A £60 million aquatics centre which will host Commonwealth Games events in Smethwick has moved a stop closer after being backed by senior councillors.**

The state-of-the-art facility has been earmarked for playing fields on Londonderry Lane, and will feature an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a 25-metre diving pool and 5,000 spectator seats. It will then become a leisure centre following the conclusion of the 2022 Games.

The aquatics centre plan was approved by Sandwell Council's cabinet last Wednesday. Planning permission will now be required before work can start on the centre.

It will play host to swimming and diving events at the Games in four years' time, after Birmingham was confirmed as the host city.

The centre will serve as a replacement for the outdated Smethwick Swimming Centre, also known as Thimblemill Baths, and Langley Swimming Centre. Council bosses have promised to provide alternative football pitches to make up for land lost on Londonderry Lane.

### Fantastic

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "There's a lot of excitement building around the Commonwealth Games and it's going to be fantastic for the area. We're very proud to be part of it and to be hosting the swimming and diving events here in Sandwell.

"We were already looking to replace our ageing swimming centres at Langley and Smethwick, which no longer meet the needs of users – and the Commonwealth Games gives us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build an even better new leisure facility to serve the local community for decades to come."

## Sex reports to police on the increase

THE number of reports police receive of people having sex and voyeurism in public have gone up over three years, new figures reveal.

West Midlands Police received 78 calls from the public last year, figures which were up from 62 in 2015 and 58 in 2016. They included 36 in Sandwell, 22 in Walsall, 13 in Wolverhampton and seven in Dudley.

Most of the reports received were classified as anti-social behaviour, a concern for safety and suspicious circumstances.

However, in only 16 did officers carry out any action after receiving a complaint.

In most no trace was found of the reported incident, there was no police attendance or it was a 'false call with good intent'.

The figures were acquired under a Freedom of Information request.

On a website called Swinging Heaven, the Swan Pool car park at Sandwell Valley Park is listed by users as a frequently used hotspot, and in Wolverhampton, the Tettenhall Pool car park was also highlighted as a well-used site.

## Britpop rockers OCS riding high at venue

MIDLANDS rockers Ocean Colour Scene will play a show at Wolverhampton Racecourse later this year.

The Birmingham band, which enjoyed huge success in the 1990s, will play a special summer gig at the racecourse on August 31 following a day's racing. The band, who had hits with The Riverboat Song, Sway and The Day We Caught the Train, announced details of the show on Twitter.

Tickets costing £29 are now on sale . A spokesman said: "Why don't you pop along for a day at the races before dancing into the evening?"

## Leap in to help maintain city woods

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help promote a city-wide drive to get more people outdoors.

Deer's Leap Wood in Harborne, Birmingham, reopened to the public last year after undergoing a restoration.

The Wildlife Trust site received a £12,000 grant from Tesco and additional funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and underwent a series of transformations across three years.

Now the site has become part of the Birmingham Active Parks Programme, a scheme set up to encourage people to lead healthier lifestyles and spend more time in nature.

Residents are invited to take part in volunteer days at the reserve, undertaking vital conservation management whilst improving their fitness in the great outdoors.

Trust senior ecologist Paul Stephenson said: "The transformation this woodland has seen over the last few years is nothing short of remarkable and it is wonderful to see it being used for such a great purpose.

"Given the role it plays in the city's history and ecology, it is brilliant to see the space restored to its former glory and it is once more a stunning bit of nature for locals to spend time."

Since launching in 2015, Tesco's Bags of Help community grant programme has provided more than 10,000 community projects with £43million of funding.

Mark Jowett (volunteer), Sandra Herbert (Tesco), Thomas Cantwell (volunteer), Paul Stephenson (Wildlife Trust), Vicky Holden (Tesco) and David Gaussen (volunteer)

## Event needs runners and volunteers

PEOPLE have been urged to join the Sandwell Valley park run – with organisers keen to get more fun and serious athletes taking to the country park course.

It is a timed five-kilometre event which takes place every Saturday morning, staffed by volunteers and free of charge for runners of all abilities to turn up and enjoy running together safely. Since the first run in November, nearly 800 runners have run a combined distance of 6,625km.

Event director Chris Jones said: "We have been overwhelmed by the response to our parkrun. Since the first run when 212 people turned up to take part, the buzz that has surrounded the event has been great."

People interested in the parkrun should visit www.parkrun.org.uk/sandwellvalley or email sandwellvalleyoffice@parkrun.com.

# Passengers delayed after lorry hits bridge

TRAIN passengers faced disruption after a lorry hit a bridge and smashed onto its side.

People catching trains between Lichfield and Birmingham were warned services may be cancelled.

The lorry stuck the bridge in Summer Road, Erdington, carrying rail services on the Cross-City Line.

The lorry driver, escaped from the 44-ton truck, prior to emergency services arriving. He was being treated at the scene for minor injuries.

Rail operators West Midlands Railway said replacement buses were running between the Lichfield City, Trent Valley and Sutton Coldfield stations.

Officials said train tickets were being accepted on buses during the disruption which they expected to last until 4pm.

Fire crews from Perry Barr and Erdington stations were at the scene at around 12pm.

Firefighters tweeted: "A HGV has come to rest on its side after striking the bridge. Please be mindful and avoid the area if possible. Road likely to be blocked for some time."

Summer Road was closed after the crash.

The lorry crash. Picture: Perry Barr Fire Station/West Midlands Fire Service

# Ex-MP hits out at claims

**A FORMER MP has claimed a woman who alleged he had sexually abused her on Cannock Chase 'deliberately lied'.**

John Hemming, ex-Liberal Democrat MP, made the allegation about former Walsall schoolgirl Esther Baker in a letter of complaint to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In 2015, Ms Baker sparked a two-year police investigation after alleging a child sex abuse ring operated on the Chase. She waived her anonymity to claim children were assaulted during the 1980s and 90s while others filmed the heinous acts and police stood watch. However, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) concluded there was 'insufficient evidence' to secure convictions.

Mr Hemming's letter comes as it emerged Ms Baker had been awarded 'core participant' status at the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Mr Hemming, who was MP for Birmingham Yardley, has written to the CPS demanding answers, according to reports.

His letter says: "I am writing to express concern about the slow handling of allegations about me made by Esther Baker that are currently being considered by the CPS. The CPS should also consider my counter complaint that Ms Baker deliberately lied, and therefore committed the offence of perverting the course of justice."

Mr Hemming said in a statement the allegations saw him face a 'dreadful experience', leading to a 'campaign of vilification' against him. Speaking about suggestions the police could investigate an attempt to pervert the course of justice, Ms Baker said: "I am quite open for them to try. I have done nothing wrong."

A CPS spokesman confirmed an initial decision on Ms Baker's file had been to take no further action. However, since she enforced her Victims' Right to Review, the matter is now being considered by an independent prosecutor.


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# Can't stop smiling!

## How chef to rich and famous found 'ingredients' for a new life

*"With my story I want to inspire people who are in an abyss because of their teeth. I looked for help from the Denture Clinic and it's been a journey full of professionalism, kindness and thanks go to everyone who played their part in restoring my smile and ability to enjoy life again."*

**ATTRACTIVE, bubbly, confident and with a contagious laugh – there are simply not enough descriptive words to capture in a single sentence the experience of meeting professional chef, Jacky Standish.**

Looking younger than her 57 years, Jacky has engaged on an unusual "bucket list", though she's quick to point out: "I'm definitely not dying. Quite the opposite!"

For the dog-lover, who confesses "she doesn't know who to smile at first," the list all about making up for lost time.

It's hard to imagine, this woman who laughs easily and is generous with her smiles, would ever want for anything, but reflecting on recent years she admits "there's plenty of catching up to be done."

Relaxing over a coffee, the former chef and house manager to Hagley Hall's Lord and Lady Cobham, explains that enduring decades of teeth troubles left her battling with some very dark days before receiving implant treatment at North Street Dental and Implant Clinic in Dudley.

"I was deeply ashamed of my teeth. I could cook fabulous meals for the rich and famous who regularly visited the hall. But for my own pleasure with food, it was becoming a nightmare as I found it more and more difficult to eat the meals I prepared.

"My bucket list . . . all the places I want to eat out," she muses, "and I just might cook at home and throw a dinner party . . . that sounds terribly old fashioned, doesn't it," she adds.

"I always used to find meals out with family and friends quite daunting and felt my presence compromised those with whom I was out. Of course, they'd have to find a restaurant with a menu offering something I could chew," Jacky says.

Jacky, suffered with periodontal (gum) disease for decades. "I was informed by my family dentist I would experience dental issues throughout my life.

"At one point I was attending the dentists every three months to try and control the problems, but no matter how I tried, as the years passed I lost more and more teeth," she recalls.

Jacky's confidence plummeted so badly she would walk her dog at 5am to avoid meeting people. "By my mid-50s the erosion on my confidence was as severe as the erosion on my gums," she says,

Now, with four implants retaining an upper overdenture and a partial lower traditional prosthetic, she's thrilled with her new smile. "No-one would ever know they are not my natural teeth. Out with my dog, I can now speak to people and ask 'what sort of dog have you got on your lead?'"

### Now look at me!

Jacky, who recently renovated her newly-purchased bungalow, adds: "Everything was finished except a makeover of the front garden. I could have paid to have it done, but decided to invest in my teeth. It was no good having a front garden when you have no front teeth." The surgery was carried out by North Street's implant dentist Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576.

Summing up her experience Jacky concluded: "I wake up feeling remarkably good, my jaw sore from all the smiling. I came for an initial consultation with Steven [practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC 108353] and I could hardly lift my head up.

"Now look at me!"

> *"I could be helped, I could be free from pain, I could be transformed, I could have closure..."*
> Jacqueline Standish Nov. 2017

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visit www.denture-clinic.co.uk and follow the link to view Jacky's 'reveal' videos

A transformed Jacqueline showing off her beautifully crafted new smile with her pre-treatment look inset

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# Growing business is clearly a favourite with its customers

Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

Commercial feature

**MARKET leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.**

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

## Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday. 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors ,sliding patio doors , french double doors and porches

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

Carera can supply and fit from a single window to complex orangeries and no job is to small or to large for it. The company controls every aspect of its projects.

## CONTACT US

**Company: Carera Windows**
**Address: 24 Junction Road, Audnam, Stourbridge, DY8 4YJ**
**Phone: 01384 442490**
**Website: www.carerawindows.co.uk**

# School Holidays!

## Dont't leave it until the last minute...

Did you know there are lots of fun activities and events avialable for you and your family to enjoy during the schools holidays in Sandwell, including activities and events for children with disabilities?

**At Work?** You can also find out what playschemes and childcare is available in your area.

To Plan your school holiday fun or for further information visit

**www.sandwell.gov.uk/holidays**

or call **0121 569 4914**

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Family Information Service

families first

# Thousands are needed to join the 'pink army'

**THOUSANDS of women and girls are needed to join the 'pink army' and make a stand against cancer by taking part in the Race for Life.**

A whole host of 5k, 10k and Pretty Muddy obstacle course events are taking place across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham this year.

In 2017, more than £700,000 was generated by mothers, daughters, sisters and friends coming together to show their commitment to the cause. Now a rallying call has been issued to women and girls to sign up and help to raise more vital funds this summer.

The traditional 5k and 10k Race for Life events, organised by Cancer Research UK, see women and girls donning all manner of pink clothing and accessories to walk, jog or run the courses. While Pretty Muddy sees participants jumping over inflatable obstacles and tumbling down slides to complete this messy challenge in style.

Participants in one of the Race For Life events make up a sea of pink

## Arboretum

On May 12 there will be 5k, 10k and Kids Pretty Muddy events at Weston Park on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border.

The following day, May 13, Race for Life comes to Walsall Arboretum with women and girls able to choose between 5k and 10k routes.

On May 20, there will also be 5k and 10k events at Cannon Hill Park in Birmingham.

Wolverhampton's West Park will host a 5k Race for Life on June 17.

Thousands of walkers and runners are once again expected to descend on Himley Park, near Dudley for the popular 5k on July 8.

Then on July 14, Pretty Muddy comes to Cofton Park in Longbridge, Birmingham and following the successful launch of Pretty Muddy at Sandwell Valley Country Park last year, it will be returning to the beauty spot on September 29.

As well as a 5k course, there will also be a kids event.

Emily Thompson, race manager for Wolverhampton and the Black Country, said: "The atmosphere at Race for Life is just fantastic, full of emotion.

"Everyone wears a back sign during the event sharing why they are taking part – in memory, or in celebration, of a friend or relative. Often we have a special guest that will share their experience of cancer which is followed by a moment's silence to remember those we may have lost." The charity says every penny raised by participants in Race for Life is making a difference.

● For more information on how to enter the events go to raceforlife.org

# Milking it for a new addition at farm

One of the Forge Mill Farm's latest attractions, a Jersey cow, with daily milkings taking place at 11am

THREE new arrivals are attracting the crowds at Forge Mill Farm in Sandwell Valley. Victoria, Beth and Polly the Jersey cows have moved in and visitors are invited to go along to meet them and see them being milked.

The ladies, who are on loan from Sheldon Country Park, can be seen being milked at 11am every day. And their delicious milk – they produce around seven litres each a day – should soon be on sale at the farm shop.

Admission to Forge Mill Farm is usually free, with a small charge for admission and some activities during school holidays. The farm also offers educational visits for schools at Sandwell Valley aimed at Key Stages 1 and 2.

The school visits take place from May to July and can be booked by 0121 569 3070. Neighbouring RSPB Sandwell Valley, located just off the Newton Road in Great Barr, also offers educational visits. To book, email SandwellEducation@rspb.org.uk or call 0121 357 7395.

# Pledge on better rail links after HS2 built

**TRAIN services passing through Sandwell and other areas will not be forgotten in the wake of HS2, the Transport Secretary said.**

By Alex Ross

Chris Grayling was giving the second reading of The High Speed Rail (Phase 2a) Bill in the Houses of Parliament which was set to be passed by MPs last Tuesday.

The route will go from Fradley near Lichfield to Crewe, cutting through countryside in Staffordshire, impact communities in Great Haywood, Ingestre, Hopton, Marston, and Yarlet. Once the bill is passed, the proposed route, which comes after approval for the HS2 route from London to Birmingham, will go to a scrutiny committee.

During the Parliament session, Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant said the route would see the loss of 27 ancient trees from Lichfield to Crewe. He also said: "Could I ask him [Mr Grayling] not to take his eye off a distant ball which is the future of the West Coast mainline after HS2 is constructed. There is concern there is over 44 stations not served by HS2 on the West Coast main line so it is very important that passenger traffic is still maintained on the West Coast mainline."

Mr Grayling replied: "What I think that HS2 will deliver, and I'm someone who sails through those stations on many, many occasions on Pendolino trains, the reality is we can and should do better at those intermediate stations.

"We should provide better commuter links into Birmingham, we should provide better links within the Trent Valley, Nuneaton to Lichfield and up to Stafford. All of these things are things we will be able to do with greater degree in the future."


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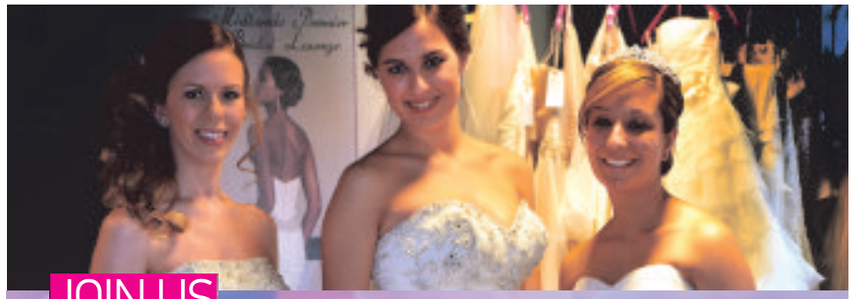

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# MP urges Government to get grip over Capita

**JOHN Spellar has accused Capita of a 'lamentable performance' in its managing of a recruitment contract for the armed forces.**

Speaking in the Commons, the Labour MP for Warley urged the Government to 'get a grip' over public sector contracts and learn lessons from the collapse of Carillion.

By Pete Madeley

Capita shares plunged almost 50 per cent after the major outsourcing firm warned on profits and announced there would be a major shake-up. The firm has a £752 million contract with the Ministry of Defence.

## Business

Responding to an urgent question, Mr Spellar sought assurances from the Government, that no taxpayer money would be wasted on bailing out contracts and companies whose business model is based on 'high-debt and maximising dividends for shareholders'.

He slammed the company's 'lamentable performance on their recruitment contract for the Armed Services', adding: "How is it right that the state has to foot the bill every time the companies mess up and they are unable to provide the basic services they were contracted to do."

However, in response the Government has claimed Capita is not in a 'comparable position to Carillion', adding that it is monitoring the firm's financial health.

Mr Spellar has previously called on the Government to learn the lesson from the collapse of Carillion, which has its headquarters in Wolverhampton. He said it was now important to 'empower regulators to ensure that companies providing services do not collapse in a manner such as Carillion.

# Africa cash on the cards for Saffron

Saffron Thethi with her mother Pav at their home in West Bromwich, who have raised cash to help African children

SELFLESS youngster Saffron Thethi, from West Bromwich, has given up her birthday presents to help get food for hungry children in Africa. She made the decision after being moved by a video of children asking for food.

Her mother, Pav, aged 34, says that generous Saffron is mature for her age and so far the family has raised more than £1,600 and Pav, a company director said: "She was going to be seven and her birthday's around Christmas. I showed her a video on what some children in Malawi were asking for for Christmas – it was just things like rice and food. She said that I'm really lucky because I get whatever I want and they don't even have anything to eat. I'm very proud of her and what she's managed to do."

Saffron pledged her birthday through the charity Zero Hunger with Langar and you can donate to her cause at – https://www.serve.world/saffron-thethi-birthday-langar-campaign

# Laura looks to kick out breast cancer with team

**IN her spare time, Laura Butler can be found sparring in the kickboxing ring – but during the day she faces a different kind of fight, for the 33-year-old is a research nurse, trying to help find a cure for breast cancer.**

Working for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Laura has already helped the organisation to recruit more than 200 patients for trials and studies which aim to treat and eventually eradicate the disease.

She is part of a nurse-led team working for research and development at the trust for the past four and a half years. She explained: "My work involves running trials that aim to treat breast cancer and I also support patients when they receive chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment.

## Smoothly

"My main responsibility is to identify patients who are suitable for the studies that we are running at the trust and provide them with information about the trials that we are carrying out. I have also set up certain studies, and monitored them, to ensure they run smoothly. But I think what I really enjoy about my job is I get to interact with patients and develop a close relationship with them.

"It's a very rewarding job. Research offers a lot of opportunities and although what we do is a small part of the whole jigsaw, you do feel like you make a difference to the patient's care. For example, we are doing a study called FURVA (Fulvestrant +/-vandetanib) where we give breast cancer patients specially designed medicine to control the spread of cancer. Patients have shown real progress so far. To be able to see the outcome really makes all the hard work worthwhile."

Laura, who lives in Birmingham with her partner, said: "There are very many talented people working within the research and development team, who have inspired me. I have learned so much from them and the work they do is really outstanding – and it's also a very friendly place to work."

One of Laura's career highlights is when she and her team successfully delivered a physiotherapy trial, namely PROSPER(Prevention Of Shoulder Problems). It looked at improving the arm movements of patients who had undergone a breast cancer surgery. She said: "I was thrilled to read the patient feedback about this study, which said the therapy really made a difference to their daily lives and boosted their confidence."

Since joining the trust, Laura has been part of around 20 trials. She added: "I'm quite lucky in a way that the patients we have met are very open to the idea of joining these trials and we really appreciate their input."

So who does Laura cite as her NHS hero? "It would have to be the team in the haematology and transplant unit at the Christie Hospital, where I carried out two placements as a student nurse. They were a really caring, supportive and knowledgeable team who helped me develop an interest in haematology and cancer care."

As for the kickboxing, Laura says: "I think it's a very good hobby which makes me feel re-energised. I absolutely love it and have been enjoying this sport for two and a half years."

## NHS HEROES

**ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.**

**Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.**

**It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally.**

**Last year, the trust provides care from 150 locations.**

**This week we highlight:**
**LAURA BUTLER**
**Research Nurse**

# Personal choice is the key to good design

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips

**YEARS ago, many people were apparently convinced that every item of furniture in their homes had to be in keeping with the age of their property – Victorian pieces for Victorian houses and so on and definitely nothing vintage for a modern room!**

Thankfully, our thinking has changed to become both more realistic and more creative in terms of interior design, with most of us happy to 'mix and match'.

However, the design gurus seem to be taking this a step further just at the moment, advising us to buy only pieces that we actually like personally, rather than items that just fit in with the general home decor.

This is really good news all round, because we've been telling people for ages to buy vintage items they actually like as opposed to pieces they think they should have!

And funnily enough, if you do this you will almost certainly find that this diverse approach works perfectly, everything will go together just fine.

One man recently bought from us a vintage chair that had been re-upholstered in brightly coloured stripes – his wife looked a bit dubious when she picked it up from the saleroom but the verdict reported back later was that it 'made their sitting room'.

Many vintage items make great central features or serve as 'statement pieces', lovely old Chesterfield sofas or chairs (providing you have room), Welsh dressers (again, not for a small house), an Edwardian chaise or even something unusual like a rocking horse or an old sleigh.

Vintage furniture sits very easily alongside modern items, an old farmhouse table looks great in a contemporary kitchen and an antique French walnut bed is perfect for a modern bedroom.

The key is that you personally have chosen pieces that you like and feel comfortable around rather than being a slave to design 'guidelines'.

Of course, you need to get the balance right, don't buy a huge piece of furniture that will dwarf everything else and limit space or go completely mad with the colours but generally speaking if you like it go for it and it will look great.

**Perry and Phillips hold sales of antiques and collectables at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on the first Tuesday of every other month. Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk.**

**Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer. Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**

# Recycled clothes are put to good use elsewhere

Unwanted clothes are big

A FEW years ago I took two bin bags of clothing to a Cash for Clothes outlet.

I queued behind several people with bulging black bags of unwanted garments and watched as the staff checked through every item to ensure it met the strict criteria.

I was fascinated by the quality of the garments being recycled, designer dresses, expensive knitwear, beautiful leather handbags and unworn shoes.

They received less than £10 each (45p per kilogram) after waiting 30 minutes or more to be seen.

The clothes are sent abroad where they get a new lease of life and are worn again, often sold on markets in poorer countries of the world.

Bad quality product is often turned into insulation or the fabric processed into other product.

Half of the clothes in Tunisia for instance are second hand.

The sorting of garments is labour intensive, machinery cannot grade fabrics and clothing.

Bras and football shirts are sold for the highest prices but the clothing recycling business is reducing as other countries no longer want our cast offs and the quality of high street clothing gets worse meaning they are graded into lower value pre worn garments that are more likely incinerated.

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis

However, this does create energy that can heat and power our homes.

Panipat in northern India is known as the "cast off capital" and strips trimming from "mutilated" clothing and after sorting into colours the shredded rags are fed into machines that begin to spin it into new yarn.

Designers upcycle the trimmings and fabrics and vintage clothes shops import branded product from the recycling plants back into Europe to sell at higher prices.

It is estimated we have more than £3 billion worth of clothing sat in our wardrobes, unloved and unworn.

We buy often and wear things only once.

Trends are constantly changing the latest fad being replaced within months and we despatch them off to the local charity shop, often without even wearing them and certainly never wearing them out.

Some of the more forward thinking high street retailers are looking into recycling the fabric from unwanted clothing to produce new yarns for new product.

H&M and M&S actively looking into this for their future business plans.

Today we no longer buy as an investment, to own classic pieces, always in fashion and made to last.

We prefer badly made, value items that will be replaced quickly as the latest catwalk shows persuade us to rush out and purchase the newest colour or trend.

Remember though "Dress shabbily and they remember the dress: dress impeccably and they remember the woman", Coco Chanel.

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Raw spinach is a good source of folic acid

Pregnant women are not the only people who can benefit from extra folic acid in their diets

# Should we fortify flour to prevent birth defects?

Salads are a good sources of folates

By Prudence Wade

**SENIOR figures in the Scottish and Welsh governments want there to be a compulsory fortification in flour.**

Now Health and Social Care Secretary Jeremy Hunt is being urged to make it compulsory for flour to contain folic acid, as research shows the vitamin can help prevent birth defects.

Folic acid is the synthetic form of folate (a type of B vitamin). Natural folate is found in foods, whereas folic acid is used as a fortification.

So why could getting more folic acid into your diet be beneficial, and how can you do it?

**What are the benefits of folic acid?**

Food Standards Scotland has already said there is clear evidence that fortification flour could help prevent birth defects such as spina bifida, as well as neural tube defects in unborn babies.

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service has backed this call for flour to have folic acid added to it, saying it could reduce the number of much-wanted pregnancies that are terminated due to neural tube defects.

Pregnant women aren't the only people who stand to benefit from getting more folic acid in their diets – research also shows that it can protect against bowel cancer and heart disease.

**Are women getting enough folic acid in their diets?**

In short: No. 81% of women in Scotland of childbearing age and 79% of such females in Wales are not getting the recommended amount of folic acid – higher than the 75% recorded for women across the UK.

The daily recommended allowance of folate from the British Dietetic Association is 200 micrograms – and significantly more for women who are hoping to conceive or are already pregnant.

**How can you get more folic acid in your diet?**

The Department of Health has said it's reviewing the research and will respond to the calls to make fortification mandatory in due course.

So for now, it's unknown whether it will be made compulsory for flour to contain folic acid, but there are still ways that you can increase your intake of the micronutrient. Breakfast is an easy meal in which to up your folic acid intake. Keep an eye out for breakfast cereals like Kellogg's Corn Flakes – which are fortified with folic acid – and accompany it with orange juice (where the B vitamin naturally occurs).

**What if you don't like cereals?**

If cereal isn't your thing, have a slice of wholemeal bread (which is fortified) and slather on some Marmite.

There are also many ways to incorporate more folate-rich foods into other meals. Dark, leafy greens are excellent sources of folic acid – think spinach, kale, broccoli and cabbage, which you can add to salads or as sides to your main meal.

To put this into perspective, half a cup of cooked spinach contains 131 micrograms of folate. You should be careful not to overcook vegetables, because this destroys the folates. Instead, steam or eat them raw to get the most out of the B vitamins.

Beans, peas and lentils are also great sources – a small bowl of lentils will contribute towards most of your daily folate needs.

For snacks, look to citrus fruits or nuts (particularly sunflower seeds, peanuts and almonds).

Finaly, if you are still struggling to get enough in your diet, you should consider a supplement.

# Slowhand of appreciation to Cyrille

Eric Clapton, centre, with Brendon Batson and former Albion players and footballing legends at The Hawthorns

ROCK legend Eric Clapton, known as Slowhand, joined Baggies heroes for one final tribute to Cyrille Regis.

Albion fan Clapton was pictured alongside Brendon Batson, Ron Atkinson and other Baggies greats at the weekend.

On the cover of his 1978 album 'Backless', Clapton is pictured wearing an Albion scarf.

An account on social media site Twitter, called WBA Former Players, tweeted the picture with the caption: "So many Former Player turned up yesterday, shows how much we all respected the Big Man. Eric Clapton wanted to join in the tribute too. All Legends"

Clapton and former Albion players attended Saturday's home game as a heartfelt tribute from fans was shown for Cyrille.

Alongside sporting the club's colours on his music cover, Clapton sponsored Albion's UEFA Cup tie against Galatasaray in 1978.

# Blades seized from pupils

**SWORDS, axes and even machetes – are among the 260 weapons seized in schools by West Midlands Police.**

Shock new figures show how many blades were picked up from schools over the past six years.

They include 80 across the Black Country. In Wolverhampton, 25 were taken by police, 20 in Walsall, 21 in Sandwell and 14 in Dudley.

The force has also revealed the list of bladed weapons, which include flick knives, machetes and daggers.

The children caught with weapons include three 10-year-olds, including one in Wolverhampton. And the data obtained by the Liberal Democrats shows the range of reported crimes from schools. They include assaults, malicious woundings, GBH and even an attempted murder in Walsall in 2016/17. Officers have also been called to reports of children possessing cannabis. Across the West Midlands, in and out of schools, the number of crimes reported to police for the possession of weapons is up 12 per cent.

There have been several recent high-profile stabbings. There was a string of stabbings in four days in Wolverhampton, with attacks in Jameson Street, Owen Road, Ashland Street and Lime Street Park. Three of the victims were teenagers.

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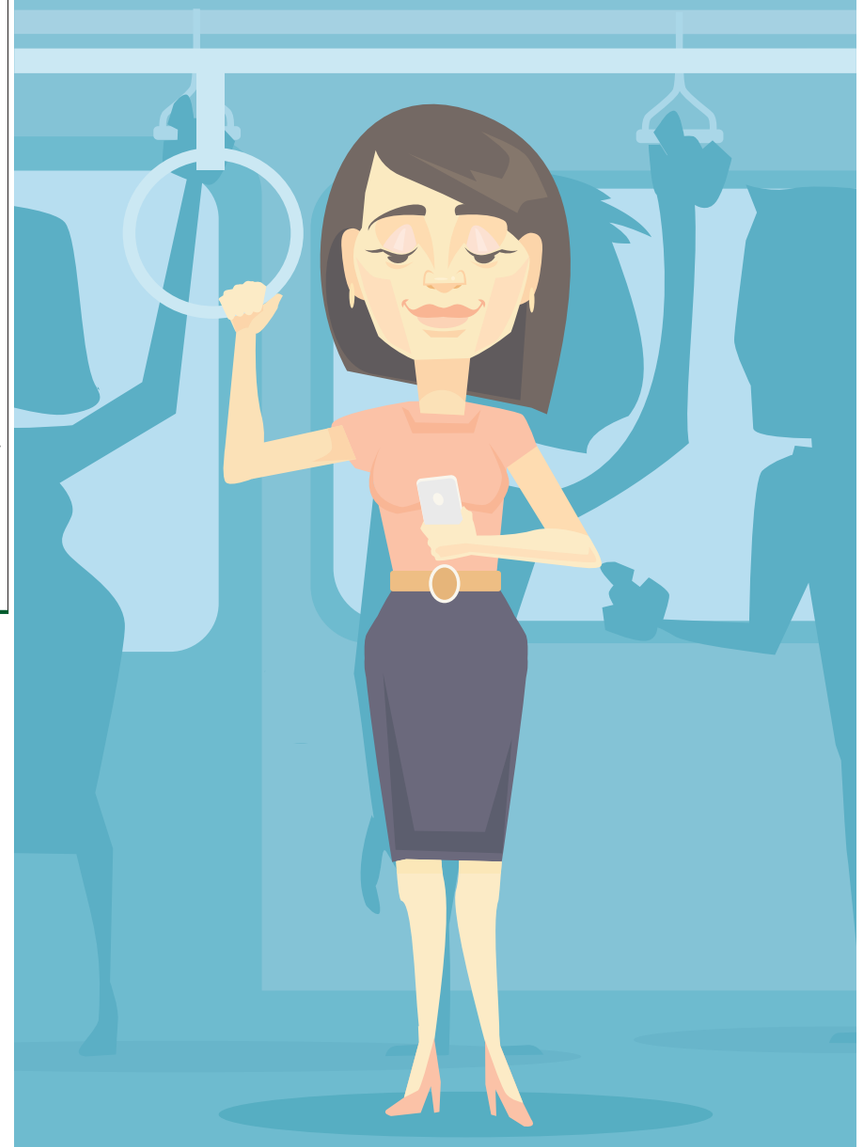

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## 63 homes to improve area – chief

PLANNING chiefs have given the green light to building 63 homes on three sites in Tipton.

Sandwell Council approved the plans at its latest cabinet, where panel members highlighted a housing shortage in the borough. The site will consist of a mix of homes varying from two-to-four bedrooms. Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "This is more brand new housing to be built in Sandwell to meet the needs of residents."

The homes have been earmarked for land on Strathmore Road. Work is set to begin in April, with all building work completed by May 2019.

A council report said the scheme would 'improve the immediate area'.

## Brick hits police car

YOBS just missed the windscreen of a police car by inches when they hurled a house brick from a bridge over a main road in Tipton.

Police described the act, on January 23 near Dudley Port railway station, as 'disgusting'.

The brick hit the roof of the vehicle.

West Midlands Police said officers were heading to help a vulnerable elderly woman at the time of the incident.

FOCUS ON TIPTON

# Air ambulance is charity choice of building society

**STAFF at Tipton and Coseley Building Society have announced Midlands Air Ambulance Charity as its 2018 charity partner.**

Adam Williams, corporate development executive for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "As a life-saving service solely reliant on donations from the general public and local businesses, this has come as very welcome news.

By John Corser

"Tipton and Coseley Building Society has raised considerable funds for worthy causes within the region and we are honoured to be selected as the society's charity in 2018."

Rebecca Poole, the Tipton's marketing assistant, added: "We have a jam-packed calendar of fund-raising activities planned for the year including monthly mufti days and the Great Tipton Bake Off, and we're determined to raise as much money as we can for this worthy charity."

Midlands Air Ambulance responds to an average of 2,000 missions each year, or around six every day, making it one of the longest established and busiest air ambulance operators in the UK. It costs more than £9 million each year to keep its three charity helicopters operational.

It receives no funding from the Government or National Lottery.

Its three ambulance helicopters are based at Cosford airbase, (covering Shropshire and the West Midlands), Tatenhill airbase, near Burton-on-Trent(covering Staffordshire and the West Midlands), and Strensham Services on the M5 in Worcestershire.

All areas of the region are accessible in 19 minutes and 90 per cent of the region is accessible within eight minutes. Its aircraft each carry a crew comprising a pilot, two paramedics or flight doctors plus full life-support medical equipment who aim to get patients to hospital within 60 minutes of injury.

Back, from left, Jim Hancox, MAAC critical care paramedic, the Tipton's Rebecca Poole and David Balthazar, MAAC doctor. Foreground the Tipton's Amy Fellows, Mark Dennis, MAAC pilot and the Tipton's Sally Coombe

## Domino pub team falls at the last

DOMINOES players from a Tipton pub narrowly missed out on a national trophy after making it through to the final of a competition.

Marston's National Domino contest for 2018, came to a grand finale game of dominoes ended in celebration when a Darlaston pub took the trophy at a national competition.

The final of the Marston's National Domino 2018 competition took place at the Clarendon Hotel in Wolverhampton.

A total of 45 teams signed up to play in May last year when it began, but one by one they were knocked out until only two remained. Organiser Steve Castle said: "The result was in doubt right up until midnight when the game ended."

The winner this year was the Horse & Jockey pub in Darlaston, whose players beat the Noah's Ark in Tipton to win the grand prize of £1,000.

Steve added: "They looked quite pleased to win – delighted."

The National Domino competition is open to all managed and tenanted pubs and sees teams play knock-out rounds.

In third place was Buck Inn, Newtown and fourth place went to Anchor at Burbage.

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# Reputation for fine cuisine

The Lamp in Wednesbury town centre

Situated in Wednesbury town centre with close links to the motorway, The Lamp restaurant is easily located on most commuter routes.

The traditional Bangladeshi and Indian restaurant has a fully licensed bar and offers a very varied menu.

For those who set high standards for Indian cuisine you will be pleased to know that the head chef won chef of the year in 2013 and is reputation is well known in the area.

A spokesman said: "Our customers have also rated us Number 1 on Trip Advisor and we have also been awarded a certificate of excellence."

The restaurant also caters for private parties with a free function room which can seat up to 60 people.

For those who fancy a night in by the TV, then free delivery is available on all orders over £10.

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# The fairytale where the ogre is a hero

**Ninety minutes. Every day. That's how long make-up artists take to transform Mid-Wales actor Steffan Harri into the nation's favourite ogre – Shrek.**

The show is back on the road for an extended run, including shows at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from February 14 to 25.

The performances follow a record-breaking UK and Ireland Tour, during which it earned rave reviews.

Shrek the Musical is based on the story and characters from the Oscar®-winning DreamWorks Animation film.

The hilarious and spectacular production turns the world of fairytales upside down in an all-singing, all-dancing, must-see musical comedy.

Shrek and his loyal steed Donkey set off on a quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona (Laura Main) from her tower, guarded by a fire breathing love-sick dragon.

The fun gets serious with the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad, a gang of fairytale misfits, and a biscuit with attitude, creating an irresistible mix of adventure, laughter and romance that is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Steffan loves it: "I was over the moon to be given the part. I toured with Shrek and was an understood to Lord Farquaad. When I got the call to do the lead role this time, I was playing in Les Miserables. It doesn't get much different from that to this. But I jumped at the opportunity. I was keen not to go back to the part of Farquaad because I'd done that. I thought it would be good to have a go at Shrek this time and a few auditions later they gave me the job. I was over the moon."

He laughs when he remembers how he learned he was going to take the starring role. He was at work and it was about 7pm, half an hour before he was due on stage in Les Miserables in the West End. "It was incredible. I went on stage still buzzing from the news. That show was a bit of a whirlwind. But I do love Shrek the Musical. Not only is the music absolutely brilliant and a pleasure to sing every night, the show also has a book that is so funny and witty."

In some respects, Shrek is like a pantomime. It's designed equally with parents and children in mind – with some gags going over the kids' heads and causing mirth among their parents.

"You're right. It's not just for the kids it's for the adults as well. The dads who are dragged for the Saturday matinee come out laughing because of the Lord Farquaad material. The kids don't really get that."

Steffan is well-versed in the original 2001 Shrek movie, having enjoyed the best-selling computer-animated fantasy based on William Steig's 1990 fairy tale picture book of the same name. He enjoyed the voice overs from Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and John Lithgow – not forgetting the equally enjoyable sequels.

"I'm 26 now so I was about 10 when it came out. I remember quite vividly going to the Welshpool Solar Cinema to watch it. When I got the job, I went back to watch the film. It really is brilliant." Shrek is a real feather in Steffan's cap.

Some day my prince will come – Shrek and Princess Fiona

After all, he's still only 26 and is already leading the line in major touring productions. He learned his trade in a quite backwater, Caereinion, in Mid-Wales, near Welshpool.

"They didn't offer drama at Caereinon High School so I looked elsewhere and Theatr Maldwyn came about in year 7-8. I learned a lot from the three teachers there and that helped me massively. That made me look elsewhere and that's when I decided to do drama and gained a place at the Guildford School of Acting. It was a fantastic school and I had the best three years there learning some fantastic skills. Now I'm out working – and that's when the real learning starts."

Steffan is thoroughly enjoying his career. He's striking out, making a name for himself and taking up opportunities that come his way. "It's great and there's such variety – literally, from Les Miserables to Shrek.

"This part is totally different to everything I've ever done before. I have a 90-minute make-up call every day so that I can be fully transformed with prosthetics. After that, I have to put on the costume and that weighs an additional 45lbs." Once all that is done, he's transformed and ready to play the ogre. He has created his own interpretation of Shrek from scratch, putting his own stamp on it.

> *The dads who are dragged for the Saturday matinee come out laughing*

"It's unusual to go out when you're so heavily made up. After the show, I go out of the stage door onto the street and pass people who've seen the show and they have no idea that it was me. But the anonymity doesn't mean I don't connect with Shrek – I do. OK, so Lord Farqaad steals a few scenes, but Shrek is completely believable. He has to be."

Life is moving quickly for Steffan and he's looking forward to starring at a major theatre in Birmingham so early into his career.

"I never thought I'd be leading a show at the age of 26. It's a great honour and I've very fortunate to them for giving me the opportunity. But there's a lot more that I'd like to do. I'd love to do straight drama and TV as well. I've done a bit of TV back in Wales on S4C and I would love doing more and see where it takes me. I'd like to work again in London again too. Working and being happy and healthy is as much as I can ask for and I'm very grateful that I have these opportunities."

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Inheaven – turbocharged riffs

# Indie rock fans will be Inheaven for arts centre gig

SOUTH London indie rockers Inheaven bring their turbocharged riffs to Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre (NAC) on Tuesday.

The quartet built around the instant hooks and striking vocals of guitarist James Taylor and bassist Chloe Little were snapped up by the Cult Records label, run by The Strokes' Julian Casablancas.

Their self-titled debut album was released last September including the single Regeneration.The band have since released an acoustic EP and a new track for the new year, Sweet Dreams Baby.

There's another major indie rock night at the NAC, on Dunkley Street, next Friday, February 16, when one of Birmingham's top bands, JAWS, top a triple bill also featuring Synthetic Recipe and Tinned Astronaut.

Gigs tonight (Thursday) include Nightmares on Wax at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath in support of new album Shape The Future, and satirical rockers Half Man Half Biscuit with The Humdrum Express at the Robin 2 in Bilston.

# Got those cigar box guitar blues

Smethwick guitar maker and musician John Wormald – aka Chickenbone John, The Godfather of The Cigar Box Guitar – is back again with Boxstock, the UK Cigar Box Guitar Festival.

Following the success of last year's event at the Slade Rooms, the festival returns to the Wolverhampton venue for more homemade blues-busting guitar on Saturday.

In a time when money's too tight to mention, just like the old days, some hard-up musicians have gone back to the traditional approach of literally making their own entertainment by making their own instruments.

Seasick Steve helped bring this humble instrument to worldwide attention. As he doesn't do many UK dates these days, here's an opportunity to catch some real roots music on your own doorstep.

Heading the bill are Blackriver Bluesman and Bad Mood Hudson, a heavy metal duo all the way from Finland. After being the success of last year's event, the festival has brought back the Dusk Brothers from Bristol and super-busker Bemuzic from Cambridge.

During the daytime Chickenbone John, pictured, will be leading workshops on how to make cigar box guitars and powerhouse one-man band Hollowbelly will be leading sessions on how to play the cigar box guitar.

During these daytime sessions there will also be plenty of traders selling their handmade instruments, plus open mic sessions for those who feel ready to perform.

It's also an ideal way to find out more about the alt-blues music scene.

Tickets for the evening gig are £14 but admission is free at the Slade Rooms from noon to 5.30pm.

# Ballet is a beauty in the Russian style

**The curse of a wicked fairy means a beautiful princess falls into an enchanted sleep which can only be broken by a prince's kiss. Enter the opulent world of Imperial Russia for one of the grandest ballets with a score by Tchaikovsky and choreography by Marius Petipa. The Sleeping Beauty is a highlight from the Birmingham Royal Ballet repertoire on a par with The Nutcracker. The Sleeping Beauty is at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, February 24.**

# Comedy nights with reality TV bridegroom

There's a funny week coming up with several top comedians in the area. Canadian stand-up Bobby Mair, as seen on Russell Howard's Good News and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, is at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday). Last year Bobby – apparently a distant cousin to Justin Beiber – featured on a reality TV show about his wedding to fellow comic Harriet Kemsley. Bobby And Harriet Get Married was shown on the Viceland channel. Bobby will be back in the region at Bromsgrove Artrix on February 17 and Birmingham Glee Club on March 9.

Next Thursday (Feb 15) Alun Cochrane is at the Slade Rooms. A TV regular, Alun is also co-host of The Frank Skinner Show on Absolute Radio.

The master of puns and one-liners Milton Jones is at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Sunday.

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# SATURDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 10



## CHOICE

Brenda Emmanus

**Charles I's Treasures Reunited (BBC2, 9pm)**

His merits as a monarch may have been called into question (to put it mildly), but Charles I did have an impressive eye for a painting, acquiring pieces by the finest artists of the past, including D_rer, Rubens, Titian and Holbein, and commissioning works from leading contemporary artists such as Van Dyck and Rubens. Following his execution in 1649, his collection was sold off by Cromwell and scattered across Europe. Charles II reclaimed some pieces, but others went on to be shown in museums across the world. Now for the first time since the 17th century, the key masterpieces have been reunited and are on display at the Royal Academy. Brenda Emmanus presents.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** And They're Off for Sport Relief.

**6.25 Pointless Celebrities.** Sarah Millican, Gary Delaney, Jack Carroll, Terry Alderton, Lee Hurst, Arthur Smith, Helen Lederer and Cariad Lloyd take part in a comedy-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show.

**7.15 All Together Now.** Rob Beckett hosts as more singers step on-stage for a chance to win a £50,000 cash prize, performing hits as varied as Sia's Chandelier, Oasis's Don't Look Back in Anger, and Whitney Houston's I Wanna Dance with Somebody. The judging panel takes the form of "The 100", a large collective of music experts and performers from all over the UK.

**8.20 Casualty.** The day of Blake's trial arrives, and Elle finds herself face-to-face with his victim, Miles, when he is rushed into the ED after collapsing at home.

**9.10 BBC News**; Weather.

**9.30 Hard Sun.** Grace Morrigan is apprehended by the police and brought in for questioning. Determined to keep themselves and their loved ones from harm's way, Hicks and Renko come up with a scheme that will turn Morrigan's government colleagues against her, but the veteran spook refuses to let herself be outmanoeuvred so easily. Meanwhile, a woman's car is found abandoned near a meadow, with what appears to be a suicide note left on the dashboard. Last in the series.

**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal and Manchester City v Leicester City.

**11.50 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the latest events on day two of the 23rd staging of the Games.

**2.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Further coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea.

## BBC2

**6.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **1.15** The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** Italy's Invisible Cities. (R) **4.00** Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) **5.00** Dragons' Den. (R)

**6.00 Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's tour of the West Country continues as he explores the Forest of Dean. He enlists the aid of local wildlife enthusiasts to track down imposing wild boar, which have returned to the area for the first time in 300 years. He also has a close encounter with a goshawk, a bird of prey that specialises in hunting in woodland, and one that has come to be known locally as "the phantom of the forest".

**7.00 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games.** Clare Balding presents highlights of the opening day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.

**8.00 Dad's Army.** A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea. (R)

**8.30 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs.** Paul Murton explores lochs close to the Central Belt, starting on the banks of the Lake of Menteith and ending by climbing Ben Venue in the Trossachs. Last in the series.

**9.00 Charles I's Treasures Reunited.** Documentary detailing how the Royal Academy reunited works of art that once formed part of Charles I's substantial collection, but were sold off piecemeal following his execution.

**10.00 Film: The Young Victoria.** (2009) In the early years of the queen's reign, she is drawn into a power struggle and falls in love with her cousin and eventual husband. Period drama, with Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend.

**11.35 Film: Love Is All You Need.** (2012) A Danish woman recovering from treatment for cancer falls in love with the widowed father of her daughter's fiance. Romantic drama, with Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm.

**1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Dancing on Ice. (R) **1.15** Regional Programme : Weather.**1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.20** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Wales (Kick-off 4.45pm).

**7.00 Take Me Out.** Paddy McGuinness presents as more single men enter his "Love Lift" in the hope of impressing his panel of 30 unattached ladies. This time, Josh, a fitness fanatic from Woking, Dan, a volcanologist from Bristol, HR manager Martin from Sunderland, and Tai, an NHS worker from Birmingham will be hoping to find romance. Plus, a chance to catch up with last week's couples.

**8.15 The Voice UK.** Emma Willis ushers more would-be stars onto the stage, as the penultimate round of Blind Auditions arrives. Once again, the singers will be asked to perform in front of coaches Will.i.am, Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson and Tom Jones, who all must appraise their skills with their backs to the performer. Only once they have decided to pledge their support are the coaches permitted to spin their chair around greet the singer in question.

**9.45 Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon challenges Jimmy Carr, Eamonn Holmes and Scarlett Moffatt to guess which celebrity homes he has infiltrated.

**10.35 ITV News**; Weather.

**10.50 Film: Lethal Weapon 2.** (1989) The detectives set their sights on a South African diplomat laundering drugs money via his embassy in the US. Action thriller sequel, with Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Joss Ackland.

**1.00** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.35** The Supervet. (R)

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales return to Wales to explore a canal that has eluded them for more than half a century. The Monmouthshire and Brecon canal is cut off from the rest of Britain's network of waterways by the Black Mountains, and meanders its way through the tranquil Usk valley. Along the way the couple visit the old ironworks at Blaenavon, where children as young as five were once put to work, and lend a hand with some lock restoration work. They also explore the castle at Tretower – which is rumoured to be haunted. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Village of the Year Final with Penelope Keith.** The four remaining villages compete in the grand final, with residents of each community putting on a special event to showcase what makes their home special. Last in the series.

**9.00 Film: Die Hard 4.0.** (2007) Tough New York cop John McClane is sent to escort a computer hacker to Washington for questioning. During this routine operation he stumbles on a criminal mastermind's plan to launch a technological terrorist attack on the US, and is forced to enlist the hacker's aid in foiling the evil scheme. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Timothy Olyphant, Justin Long and Maggie Q.

**11.35 Film: Ted.** (2012) A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane.

**1.25** The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.25** Coast vs Country. (R) **5.20** Location, Location, Location. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** The A-Team. (R) **2.00** The A-Team. (R) **3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Rich House, Poor House. (R)

**6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies.** The documentary concludes, offering an insight into the final stages of a puppy's early development. This time, the focus falls on how fun, engaging activities help young canines to improve their ability to learn – and their general state of happiness. Last in the series.

**7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald: Caribbean.** The singer embarks on a series of ocean odysseys, and while she is no stranger to the open sea, having found fame on 1998 BBC TV documentary The Cruise, the mega-cruiser she boards is a far cry from the 600-passenger vessel she is used to. In the opening edition, she and her fellow passengers stop off in Nassau in the Bahamas, where Jane finds solace in the state's oldest baptist church. (R)

**8.00 The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship.** Part one of two. Following engineers and designers as they construct the liner Seven Seas Explorer, aiming to make it the most luxurious ship in the world of its size. (R)

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers and Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday.

**10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Northampton Town and Bradford City v Bury.

**10.30 Film: The Silence of the Lambs.** (1991) A trainee FBI agent engages in a battle of wills with an imprisoned psychopath to gain his help in catching a serial killer. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins.

**12.40** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Scientists. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Modus **10.30** The Fall: The Wonderful and Frightening World of Mark E Smith **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.35** Rock 'n' Roll Guns for Hire: The Story of the Sideman **2.05** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **3.05** Close

**ITV2**

**11.55** Take Me Out **1.10** Mr Bean **1.45 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **3.30 Film:** Valentine's Day (2010) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** Valentine's Day (2010) **5.55 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00 Film:** The Hangover Part II (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Hangover Part II (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.00** Release the Hounds **2.00** Ibiza Weekender **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.15** A Touch of Frost **1.25 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** The Durrells **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**11.35** Fishing Impossible **12.35** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury. Coverage of today's meetings at Newbury and Warwick. **4.00 Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **6.15** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out. Coverage of the third day's play at the single-frame tournament. **11.00 Film:** Green Zone (2010) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** Green Zone (2010) **1.15** Minder **2.20** The Car Chasers **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.00** The Goldbergs **1.30** Toy Story Toons: Partysaurus Rex **1.40** The Big Bang Theory **6.45 Film:** The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00 Film:** Riddick (2013) **11.20** Gogglebox **12.30** Naked Attraction **1.30** Celebs Go Dating **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.05** Rude(ish) Tube

**Film4**

**11.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **1.00** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **2.45** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **4.35** Volcano (1997) **6.35** I, Robot (2004) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) **11.10** The Fly (1986) **1.00** Young Detective Dee: Rise of the Sea Dragon (2013) **3.45** Close

# SUNDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 11

## CHOICE

Tom Garrison

**Lost Pyramids of the Maya (Channel 4, 8pm)**
The Mayan civilisation is now sadly consigned to the history books, but its legacy resonates strongly within our own to this day – whether it's elements of architecture still found within Mexico and Central America, ancient prehispanic sites scattered throughout the region, or in the plotlines of Hollywood movies (for some reason we're preoccupied with misinterpreted Mayan prophecies of armageddon). This documentary utilises exclusive access to the results of a huge scientific research project to learn more about the ancient civilisation, revealing fascinating insights into a people who remained largely hidden within the jungles, and transforming everything we thought we knew about the Maya.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea. **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind. (R)
**6.05 BBC News.**
**6.20 Regional Programme.**
**6.30 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker visit Cambridgeshire, where a project is underway to turn a quarry into a safe reed bed habitat for one of the UK's rarest birds, the bittern. Richard Taylor-Jones witnesses a spectacular display of wildlife, Adam Henson meets a young farmer in the New Forest, and Tom Heap discovers how Bill gates is making the most of British agricultural expertise.
**7.30 Still Open All Hours.** Granville goes to Scarborough hoping to catch up with Mavis, and leaves Leroy in charge of the shop – which soon has an unconscious customer on the floor. Last in the series.
**8.00 Call the Midwife.** Sister Julienne helps a woman from Pakistan who is unable to have children, but who has found to her shock that her husband is bringing a pregnant second wife into their home.
**9.00 McMafia.** Alex travels to Moscow on business, unaware of the danger he is rushing into. He has only one way to save himself as he faces a final showdown with Vadim. Last in the series.
**10.00 BBC News.**
**10.20 Regional Programme.**
**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action – Newcastle United v Manchester United, Southampton v Liverpool and Huddersfield Town v Bournemouth.
**11.35 The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
**12.10** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day three from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day three from PyeongChang, South Korea.

## BBC2

**6.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea. **9.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **2.00** Food & Drink. (R) **2.30** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **3.30** The Crane Gang. (R) **4.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea.
**6.00 New York: America's Busiest City.** Anita Rani, Ade Adepitan, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow look at food consumption in the Big Apple. From dusk until dawn at the New Fulton fish market in The Bronx, they uncover the hidden night time operations, hard-nosed negotiations and price fluctuations of this enormous wholesale operation. (R)
**7.00 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games.** Clare Balding presents highlights of the second day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
**8.00 South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness.** Documentary exploring the wildlife, traditions and landscape in the country's rural areas, including footage of dolphins swimming alongside humans and a falconer flying a goshawk.
**9.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel assess the profit-making potential of selling advertising space on the move, a scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a motorcycle chain-tensioning product.
**10.00 The Mash Report.** Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)
**10.30 Live at the Apollo.** Nish Kumar presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Luisa Omielan and David O'Doherty. (R)
**11.15 Cleverman.** Koen's power and understanding grows as he spends time with Uncle Jimmy, while Waruu discovers a dangerous creature and is led to a substance he believes can vanquish the Cleverman.
**12.10** Women's Six Nations Highlights. **12.40 Film:** The Deep. (2012) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.10** BBC News.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** River Monsters. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.25** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **1.30** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **2.30** The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. (R) **3.00** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.40** ITV News; Weather. **5.00** The Celebrity Chase. (R)
**6.00 Dancing on Ice.** Love Week arrives at the rink, just in time for St Valentine's Day. Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo once more take their places on the judging panel, as Holly Willoughby and Philip Schofield welcome the eight remaining celebrities and their pro-skater partners back out onto the ice.
**8.00 Endeavour.** Oxford plays host to a veteran film star, in town to visit a local cinema. However, a mysterious death casts a sinister pall over the occasion, and offers the newly promoted DS Endeavour Morse a fresh case to pursue. Meanwhile, a family visit puts DCI Thursday's hospitality to the test. Inspector Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans and Roger Allam.
**10.00 ITV News**; Weather.
**10.10 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)
**11.05 Six Nations Highlights.** Action from the second round of the championship, featuring Ireland v Italy at the Aviva Stadium, England v Wales at Twickenham and Scotland v France at Murrayfield.
**12.00** Next of Kin. (R) **1.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35 Film:** School of Rock. (2003) Comedy, starring Jack Black. **4.45 Film:** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer. (2007) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Ioan Gruffudd.
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**
**7.00 Posh Pawn.** The return of the programme offering an insight into the world of high-end pawnbroking. James takes a ride around London in an eye-catching supercar, with an aspiring fitness guru who's looking for £80,000. With her eyes on a round-the-world cruise costing £30,000, an adventurous retiree wants to sell a collection of handbags and jewellery. A car enthusiast contacts memorabilia expert Lawrence about a helmet that once belonged to land speed record-breaker Donald Campbell, and James faces a dilemma when he gets an offer for one of his favourite impulse buys. (R)
**8.00 Lost Pyramids of the Maya.** Documentary following a research project that has uncovered the ruins of an ancient hidden civilisation in the jungles of Central America.
**9.00 Film: Spy.** (2015) Premiere. A deskbound CIA agent provides valuable background support for a dashing secret agent, but has never gone into action herself. Everything changes, when the spy mysteriously vanishes, and she leaps into action to take his place, infiltrating the inner circle of a ruthless arms dealer and trying to avert a global catastrophe. Comedy adventure, starring Melissa McCarthy.
**11.25 Film: Friends with Benefits.** (2011) A recruiter sleeps with one of her client's staff, but keeping their feelings out of the arrangement proves tricky. Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.
**1.25** The World's Most Expensive Food. (R) **2.20** The Supervet. (R) **3.15** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. (R) **4.10** Gillette World Sport. **4.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.15** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45 Film:** Over Her Dead Body. (2008) Supernatural romantic comedy, starring Eva Longoria. **2.30 Film:** What to Expect When You're Expecting. (2012) Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz. **4.25** 5 News Weekend. **4.30 Film:** Sleepless in Seattle. (1993) Romantic comedy, with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. **5.30** 5 News Update. **5.35 Film:** Sleepless in Seattle. (1993) Concluded.
**6.30 Film: Along Came Polly.** (2004) An obsessive man's orderly routine is thrown into disarray when a wildly spontaneous old friend walks back into his life. Romantic comedy, with Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. Edited for language and sexual content.
**8.00 Rom-Com LOL Special.** Iain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings. (R)
**9.00 Britain's Favourite Rom-Com.** As St Valentine's Day approaches, a selection of film stars, comedians and TV personalities revisit some of cinema's most memorable romantic comedies, via a top 40 list interspersed with personal accounts of first loves. Celebrating the unique way this particular genre gets audiences laughing and crying in equal measure, and among the actors sharing their thoughts on the films are Sleepless in Seattle's Rita Wilson, and Gregory's Girl star Clare Grogan.
**11.55 Film: There's Something About Mary.** (1998) A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz.
**2.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Scientists. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**
**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Horizon: Mars – A Traveller's Guide **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30 Film:** Mia Madre (2015) **12.15** Sings Musicals **1.15** Horizon: Mars – A Traveller's Guide **2.15** Art, Passion & Power: The Story of the Royal Collection **3.15** Close
**ITV2**
**12.00** Take Me Out **1.20** The Voice UK **2.50 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.35 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.40 Film:** Jurassic World (2015) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45 Film:** Jurassic World (2015) **9.00** Survival of the Fittest **10.30** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Teleshopping
**ITV3**
**12.15 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** The Durrells **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **11.00 Film:** Changeling (2008) **1.45** Blue Murder **3.00** George and Mildred **3.55** Road to Avonlea **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen
**ITV4**
**11.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out. Coverage of the afternoon session in the fourth and final day's play. **4.00** Pawn Stars **5.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out. Further coverage of the fourth day's play at the single-frame tournament. **10.00 Film:** Executive Decision (1996) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** Executive Decision (1996) **12.45** Minder **2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
**E4**
**11.00** The Goldbergs **12.30 Film:** Casper (1995) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00 Film:** Men in Black (1997) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Gogglebox **1.00** Celebs Go Dating **2.05** Naked Attraction **3.00** First Dates Abroad **3.25** Hollyoaks
**Film4**
**11.00** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **3.10** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **4.50** Evolution (2001) **6.50** Last Holiday (2006) **9.00** 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (2016) **11.50** Limitless (2011) **1.55** Enough Said (2013) **3.45** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**
**The Deadly Twin, Channel 5, 3.20pm**
Premiere. A woman springs into action after discovering that the twin brother of her daughter's boyfriend has escaped from a psychiatric institution intent on revenge. Thriller, starring Brigid Brannagh, Timothy Granaderos and Calista Carradine. (2017)

**TUESDAY**
**Fatal Fiance, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
A woman joins forces with a reporter to clear the name of her fiance, who has becomes the prime suspect in a murder case. However, not everything is as it seems. Thriller, starring Jenny Wade, Jordi Vilasuso and Taylor Cole. (2016)

**WEDNESDAY**
**Water for Elephants, Channel 4, 1.25am**
A veterinary student is left homeless and penniless after his parents' deaths during the Depression. He joins a travelling circus, applying his skills to caring for the animals, and falls in love with the possessive owner's wife as they tend an elephant together. Romantic drama based on Sara Gruen's novel, with Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson. (2011)

Water for Elephants, Wednesday, Channel 4,1.25am

**THURSDAY**
**A Husband's Confession, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
Preacher Evan Tanning's peaceful life as a radio parenting advisor is shattered when the son he never knew he had turns up on his doorstep, jeopardising his credibility ahead of the nationwide launch of his show. However, events take an even more catastrophic turn when Tanning's wayward teenage niece Jamie goes missing. Drama, starring JR Bourne and Allie Gonino. (2015)

**FRIDAY**
**Magic Mike, Channel 4, 12.10am**
A male stripper who is the star attraction in a nightclub teaches a talented young dancer the tricks of the trade, while also introducing him to his hedonistic world. The veteran performer falls for his protege's sister, but finds his wild lifestyle comes between them. Steven Soderbergh's comedy drama, with Channing Tatum and Olivia Munn. (2012)

# PICK OF THE WEEK

## Perez has a new case to crack on an old murder

We know what you're thinking – not ANOTHER crime drama.

After all, TV isn't exactly short of them, whether they're home grown or being imported from the US or, as is more likely these days, Europe.

There's no wonder that the recent National Television Awards introduced a category dedicated to them – there are just so many being made these days.

Two of them have been inspired by the books of Ann Cleeves. Vera recently ended its more recent run on ITV, and now Shetland is back for its fourth series, two years on from its predecessor.

Although born and raised in England, Cleeves knows the place well, having lived there; she's currently living in Whitley Bay, close to where her Vera books are set.

Some fans have complained that the TV plots don't follow the exact pattern of her novels, but she's relaxed about that.

"The TV adaptations are very often very different - the scriptwriters cut some characters and add others, cut big chunks of plot and sometimes they even change the murderer!," she laughs.

"But prose and film are different forms. Besides, the book stops being mine every time someone reads it. Each reader brings their own imagination, history and prejudice to the story and each writer has to learn to let go. Adaptation just takes the process a bit further."

One of the secrets of Shetland's success is its far north setting – the isles themselves are almost a character in their own right.

"I think the viewers are naturally drawn to the place, the setting and curious about what Shetland is like," explains Douglas Henshall, who plays the lead character, DI Jimmy Perez. "And, beyond the location, it's a well written drama which draws you in."

This time around, fans of the books don't need to worry about a favourite story being torn apart by a screenwriter, because this time, it's a completely original tale that runs throughout the six-part series.

"David Kane has created a compelling and distinctive crime story told across six hours. We are also thrilled to have the brilliant core cast return," says executive producer Kate Bartlett.

Her colleague Gaynor Holmes adds: "Shetland has a loyal following and we're sure they will be thrilled with the surprises we've got for them this time around."

The plot focuses on local man Thomas Malone, who has spent the past 23 years behind bars after being found guilty of murdering teenager Lizzie Kilmuir. Malone has always protested his innocence, and when his conviction is eventually overturned, it's up to Perez and the team to find out what really happened to Lizzie.

Perez speaks to the original investigating officer, Drew McColl. Now retired, he has plenty to say about the case, and explains why, despite DNA evidence to the contrary, he still believes Malone is guilty.

Douglas Henshall stars in Shetland, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

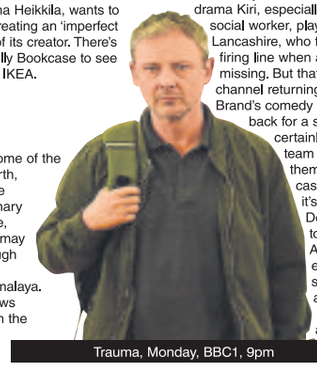
**MONDAY**
**Trauma**
**ITV, 9pm**
New series. After a bad day at work, Dan Bowker arrives home drunk to discover that his 15-year-old son Alex has not come home and no-one knows where he is. Meanwhile, off-duty trauma surgeon Jon Allerton is at home celebrating his birthday when he is called into work to operate on Alex, who has been stabbed. When the medical team is unable to save Alex, Dan cannot let go of the idea that the surgeon is responsible for the death of his son. Thriller, starring Adrian Lester and John Simm, with Rowena King and Lyndsey Marshal

**Julius Caesar Revealed**
**BBC1, 9pm**
The classicist sets out on a quest to uncover the real Julius Caesar, challenging the received popular view of the Roman emperor. She looks at how he become the autocratic ruler of Rome, the tactics of his military campaigns, his use of spin and PR on his way to the top, and the reasons behind his assassination on the Ides of March in 44 BC. The scholar also examines his surprising legacy right up to the present day, revealing how his influence is still shaping language, politics and people's everyday lives.

**TUESDAY**
**Flatpack Empire**
**BBC2, 9pm**
Cameras continue to roam the boardrooms and warehouses of one of Sweden's most successful exports since Abba. This week, one of IKEA's newest designers, Hanna-Kaarina Heikkila, wants to challenge mass production by creating an 'imperfect vase' that has the finger-marks of its creator. There's also a visit to the home of the Billy Bookcase to see what it takes to be a supplier for IKEA.

**WEDNESDAY**
**Earth's Natural Wonders**
**BBC1, 9pm**
New series. Cameras explore some of the most breathtaking places on earth, following the lives of some of the people who call these extraordinary places home. In the first episode, cameras follow Yak-herder Thokmay Lowa as he leads his herd through one of the most treacherous mountain passes in the high Himalaya. Elsewhere, the programme follows members of Inuit communities in the Canadian Arctic as they take part in the hazardous mussel harvest, and people in Siberia searching for mammoth tusks, now released from the Siberian Permafrost after thousands of years.

**Damned**
**Channel 4, 10pm**
Channel 4 recently caused a stir with the acclaimed drama Kiri, especially over its portrayal of a social worker, played by Sarah Lancashire, who found herself in the firing line when a child in her care went missing. But that hasn't stopped the channel returning to the subject as Jo Brand's comedy about social workers is back for a second series. The run certainly feels topical as the team at Elm Heath find themselves dealing with a case of historic abuse. So, it's not a great time for Denise (Georgie Glenn) to bring Mimi (Lolly Adefope) into the fold, especially as newly single Al (Alan Davies) and a permanently stressed Rose (Brand) are too busy to mentor her.


Trauma, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

**THURSDAY**
**Children Who Kill**
**ITV, 9pm**
Juveniles found guilty of murder in the US are given life, with no chance of parole – a hardline approach that in 2015 prompted the American Supreme Court to rule such sentences as 'unconstitutional'. With the system now under review, Susanna Reid travels to the US and talks to young killers about their crimes and life in jail. Susanna also meets the families of victims, to ask how they feel about a possible change to American's approach to juvenile sentencing.

**FRIDAY**
**Requiem**
**BBC1, 9pm**
Aron Morgan lodges a complaint against Matilda for harassing Davey, and the police are unmoved by Matilda showing them what she believes is a clue to Carys' disappearance. Rose is pushed to breaking point as old wounds are reopened, Ed gets jittery as Trudy gives him the cold shoulder, and Graves becomes increasingly suspicious that he's hiding something. Sylvia reveals the peculiar ancestry of the Dean family, Hal identifies the source of the eerie music on the audiotapes, and Trudy remembers a crucial detail about the day Carys vanished. Psychological thriller, starring Lydia Wilson.

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# BRAIN GYM

No.466

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 26 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 3 | ■ | 1 | 18 | 25 | 9 | 26 | 4 |
| ■ | 14 | ■ | 18 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 18 | ■ | 18 | ■ | ■ | 24 |
| ■ | 10 | ■ | 3 | 8 | 15 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 21 | 11 | 6 | 7 |
| 9 | 26 | 8 | 22 | ■ | 14 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 14 | ■ | ■ | 19 |
| ■ | 11 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 11 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 6 | ■ | ■ | 14 |
| ■ | 21 | 18 | 23 | 8 | 6 | 20 | 18 | ■ | 18 | 16 | 18 | 26 |
| 1 | ■ | 17 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 24 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 18 | ■ | 9 |
| 26 R | 8 | 8 | 25 | ■ | 2 | 24 | 26 | 13 | 18 | 26 | 23 | ■ |
| 11 I | ■ | ■ | 8 | ■ | 24 | ■ | 24 | ■ | 5 | ■ | 24 | ■ |
| 21 | ■ | ■ | 6 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 21 | ■ | 11 | 9 | 21 | 19 |
| 22 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 19 | 9 | 19 | 24 | 24 | 23 | ■ | 11 | ■ |
| 25 | ■ | ■ | 9 | ■ | 14 | ■ | 21 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 25 | ■ |
| 4 | 18 | 21 | 19 | 9 | 3 | ■ | 24 | 17 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 14 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 | 17 |
| 5 | 18 |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 20 |
| 8 | 21 |
| 9 | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 I | 24 |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 R |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 K | 2 T | 3 F | 4 J | 5 P | 6 Y | 7 B | 8 A | 9 Z | 10 L | 11 E | 12 U | 13 V |
| 14 X | 15 S | 16 M | 17 W | 18 C | 19 D | 20 H | 21 Q | 22 G | 23 I | 24 N | 25 O | 26 R |

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

**Across**

**6.** Keeps earth-bound for certain reason (7)
**7.** Topless figure with a tan? (5)
**9 & 19Ac.** Vegetable to decay at the back of the vehicle (6)
**10.** Decree one should be encircled by heavy artillery (9)
**12.** One man went to mow! (11)
**15.** Where a man keeps his capital and his secrets! (5,3,3)
**17.** Could it show the force of a testament? (9)
**19.** See 9 Across.
**21.** What directors do for the farm animal (5)
**22.** Uneasiness if sea-mail goes astray (7)

**Down**

**1 & 16Dn.** Retarding mechanism faulty, we hear - manage to escape (5,5)
**2.** See 20 Down
**3.** German flower produces a certain fragrance, one hears! (4)
**4.** I'm having a preference for being unbiased (9)
**5.** See 13 Down.
**8.** America is after the record for this event (6)
**11.** Hospital attendants in whom discipline reposes (9)
**13 & 5Dn.** Pedagogue chose the carol, maybe (6,7)
**14.** Yet an alteration about a football team causes concern (7)
**16.** See 1 Down
**18.** Angela Nolan could show impetuosity (4)
**20 & 2Dn.** Display to put down in the open air (6)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 1 | ■ | 2 | ■ | 3 | ■ | ■ | ■ | 4 | ■ | 5 | ■ |
| 6 | | | | | | | ■ | 7 | | | | |
| ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | 8 | ■ | | ■ | | ■ |
| 9 | | | ■ | 10 | | | | | | | | |
| ■ | | ■ | 11 | ■ | ■ | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | 12 | | | 13 | | | | | | | |
| ■ | 14 | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | ■ | 16 | ■ |
| 17 | | | | | | | 18 | | ■ | 19 | | |
| ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | 20 | ■ | | ■ |
| 21 | | | | | ■ | 22 | | | | | | |
| ■ | | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | ■ | | | | |

### Quick Clues:

**Across**

**6.** Pagan (7)
**7.** Faithful (5)
**9.** Grow older (3)
**10.** Indiscreet (9)
**12.** Of inferior quality (6-5)
**15.** Foot soldiers (11)
**17.** Unceasing (9)
**19.** Snoop (3)
**21.** Sharp (5)
**22.** Amaze (7)

**Down**

**1.** Simulate (5)
**2.** Pig pen (3)
**3.** Judge (4)
**4.** Venetian boatman (9)
**5.** Serious (7)
**8.** Weekday (6)
**11.** Lay waste (9)
**13.** Trip (6)
**14.** Bill (7)
**16.** Salt water (5)
**18.** Too (4)
**20.** Decay (3)

## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | | 5 | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | 1 | 4 | | | |
| 3 | | 6 | | | 9 | 8 | | 1 |
| 7 | | 8 | | 5 | | | 3 | 2 |
| | | | 4 | | 2 | | | |
| 4 | 9 | | | 8 | | | | 7 |
| | | 5 | | 4 | | | | 8 |
| | 8 | | 1 | 3 | | 2 | | |
| | 1 | | | | 7 | | 6 | 4 |

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Bare necessity; 8 Idolatry; 9 Emma; 10 Tender; 12 Letter; 14 Writer; 16 Strips; 18 Idle; 20 Transact; 22 Carried the day. Down: 1 Landseer; 2 Sealed; 3 Beat; 4 Recycles; 5 Ascent; 6 Stem; 11 Rarities; 13 Especial; 15 Theory; 17 Rasped; 19 Dead; 21 Acts.
QUICK - Across: 7 Reprehensible; 8 Composer; 9 Gone; 10 Frolic; 12 Preach; 14 Adjoin; 16 Decent; 18 Epic; 20 Inwardly; 22 Comprehensive. Down: 1 Devoured; 2 Propel; 3 Thus; 4 Intrepid; 5 Single; 6 Flan; 11 Consider; 13 Conclave; 15 Occupy; 17 Caress; 19 Poor; 21 Weep.

## Quiz

1. What was the first Viscount Montgomery of Alamein's first name?
2. Which post did David Owen hold in the Labour Government from 1977-1979?
3. The best-known form of which game is called 8-ball?
4. Which actor played Lord Bellamy in Upstairs, Downstairs?
5. Which condition was also called the king's evil?
6. Which comic actor's first talking film was Monsieur Verdoux?
7. What, in 1959, became the City of London's first new theatre in 200 years?
8. What is the name of the 2-day holiday at the start of the Jewish New Year?
9. Who was Queen Elizabeth II's father?
10. Which partnership wrote My Fair Lady and Paint Your Wagon?

**Last week's solutions:**

**Quiz:** 1 Ostrogoths; 2 Letchworth; 3 Seraphim; 4 TS Eliot; 5 Campbells; 6 Westminster Abbey; 7 Fungus; 8 Napalm; 9 Oxford; 10 Loganberry.

**Niner:** POULTICED

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

**8628945** gives a game,
**37651** gives a second game,
**87631** gives a third game.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |

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## Motown the Musical

If ever a musical genre lent itself to theatre, it was the mass harmonics and wall-of-sound dramatics of Motown. Motown the Musical is the story of Berry Gordy, a former Detroit car-worker living in an America riven by race riots, who scraped together a shoestring budget in 1959 to found a record label which became its own assembly-line of sensational hits.

Featuring 40 classic songs including My Girl, Stop! In The Name of Love, Dancing in the Street, I Heard It Through The Grapevine and Ain't No Mountain High Enough, this production won't disappoint.

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The longest running show in Broadway history, second-longest running in West End history, and winner of over 70 awards including 3 Oliviers, 7 Tonys, 7 Drama Desk awards and many more, The Phantom of the Opera has been seen by 130 million people in 145 cities in 27 countries.

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

## Popular location for five-bedroom detached house

**An extended detached residence, 119 Tower Road, Tividale, Oldbury has good-sized accommodation and lies in a popular and convenient location.**

It is within walking distance of New Birmingham Road and City Road which in turn provide public transport services providing links into Dudley, Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Birmingham and other surrounding areas.

Within walking distance of local shops available at the bottom of Tower Road, together with schools for all age groups, it is for sale through Tom Giles at £349,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it stands set back from the roadside behind a driveway with parking for four/five vehicles.

It has a reception hall, a lounge/dining room with a glazed bow window to front and French doors to the rear garden. The dining room features ceramic tiled flooring and there is open access into the kitchen. This space has base units and wall cupboards with granite working surfaces providing worktop, a built-in "Ariston" dishwasher, inset enamel 1.5 bowl sink with mixer tap and ceramic tiled flooring.

There is a lobby with vinyl flooring and a downstairs WC with vinyl flooring and an extractor fan. There is an under-stairs store cupboard with vinyl flooring, and a side lobby/verandah with vinyl flooring and a sliding door to the garage and a door to a utility.

A staircase leads from the reception hall to a first floor landing with a hatch to the loft space. The master bedroom is positioned to the rear. It has built-in wardrobes including a double and a single, a study area and en-suite shower room.

Bedroom two is set to the rear while bedroom three lies to the front and has built-in wardrobes and a dressing table. Having views over the frontage of the property is bedroom four, again with wardrobes and a dressing table. Bedroom five is to the front and the family bathroom has a white suite and vinyl flooring.

Outside is a driveway to front with parking for four/five vehicles, a lawned garden, a garage and a a rear garden including a pear tree, a pergola with a grape plant, a vegetable plot with a fig tree and a gate opening onto lawned area at the rear.

## OLDBURY £349,950

### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

**AGENT: Tom Giles**
**TEL: 0121 552 6171**
**EMAIL: general@tomgiles.net**

### KEY FEATURES

Extended detached
Good sized accommodation
5 bedrooms
Well placed for commuting
Parking for 4/5 vehicles

# Three-bedroom house with a swimming pool on the market

DUDLEY
£187,500 <<<

**Having a swimming pool, sauna and a bar, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Boundary Crescent, Dudley is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £187,500.**

Considerably improved and extended the property also has decking on two levels.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, lounge, kitchen, sun room, a cloakroom/WC, three bedrooms, a bathroom, car parking, gardens, swimming pool and useful store and the sauna and bar.

The property occupies a pleasant and convenient cul-de-sac location with a wide range of amenities available, being within easy reach of Gornal village, together with access to Dudley, Sedgley and the surrounding centres.

**Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999 or visit www.wakeman-online.com**

# Awesome views from stunning bungalow

KINGSWINFORD
£174,950

**A stunning three-bedroomed bungalow in Ragees Road, Kingswinford, lies in a lovely cul-de-sac location and has awesome views.**

Redecorated throughout to a high standard and having a tiered rear garden, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers in excess of £174,950.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a living room, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom, a driveway and a garden.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "This lovely detached bungalow offers off-road parking, three bedrooms and all the views you could want."

**Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.**

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DEFINITION OF RESERVE PRICE
The reserve price is the seller's minimum acceptable price at auction and the figure below which the auctioneer cannot sell. It is usual, but not always the case that a provisional reserve is agreed between the seller and the auctioneer at the start of marketing and the Final Reserve Price will be agreed between the auctioneer and the seller prior to the auction sale. Whilst the reserve price is confidential it will usually be set within the quoted guide range and in any event will not exceed the highest quoted guide price.

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GUIDE PRICE £65,000 - £70,000 (+ FEES)

18 HELLIER STREET, DUDLEY
GUIDE PRICE £65,000 - £70,000 (+ FEES)

30 WILTSHIRE WAY, WEST BROMWICH
GUIDE PRICE £69,000 - £79,000 (+ FEES)

11 HAZELBEECH ROAD, WEST BROMWICH
GUIDE PRICE £110,000 - £120,000 (+ FEES)

# Spacious property

BLOXWICH
£300,000

**This detached family home in Baslow Road, Bloxwich, has scope for extension and improvement.**

Set in a highly desirable area, it is for sale through Goodchilds Estate Agents at £300,000 with no chain.

This spacious detached residence is close to amenities in Bloxwich High Street, the Walsall Academy and Bloxwich Golf Course.

Set on a generous plot of land with front and rear gardens, the property also benefits from off-road parking, part gas central heating and double glazing.

In more detail the entrance hallway has two storage cupboards and stairs off. The main lounge has a large bow window to the front. The dining room has a window to the rear. The kitchen has ample storage units, a breakfast bar, a useful pantry cupboard and lovely views across the rear garden. The utility room has space for appliances, a Belfast sink and a door to the lobby accessing the WC, the rear garden and the garage.

**For further information, or to book a viewing, contact Goodchilds on 01922 405699.**

# Well-presented detached home in cul-de-sac has been improved

WALSALL
£189,950

>>>

**This immaculately presented detached home in Selsdon Road, Walsall, lies at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac on a sought-after development, known as Turnberry.**

It is for sale through Marrion & Co Estate Agents at £189,950.

With gas central heating and gold oak double glazing, it has an enclosed storm porch, entrance hall/stairs, a front lounge, a rear dining kitchen, a conservatory, two excellent bedrooms, the master having built-in wardrobes, a fully tiled shower room, a garage/carport and landscaped gardens.

The property has been significantly improved, with replacement kitchen and bathroom fittings, double glazing and a modern central heating and boiler. Early internal inspection is therefore highly recommended in order to fully appreciate the standard of internal appointments.

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3 Bed End Terraced House
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

**22 Richard Williams Rd, Wednesbury**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)**

**11 Mount Avenue, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £25,000+ (plus fees)**

**123 Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley**
2 Bed Mid Terraced House
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000 (plus fees)**

**12 Dorothy Adams Close, Cradley Heath**
3 Bed End Terraced Town House
**Guide: £55,000+ (plus fees)**

**6 Grazebrook Road, Dudley**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)**

**91 Addenbrooke St, Wednesbury**
3 Bed Semi Detached House
**Guide: £75,000+ (plus fees)**

**15 Hallam Street, West Bromwich**
Residential Investment Property
Current Gross Income: £16,640 pa.
**Guide: £99,000+ (plus fees)**

**33 Creed Way, West Bromwich**
2 Bed Residential Investment
Current Gross Income: £5,364 pa.
**Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)**

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Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or – 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary. All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee. For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, our catalogue or website. Please contact our office for further details or advice.

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# AUCTION
**154 lots to include**

View: 7/2 @ 12.15; 12/2 @ 13.15 & 14/2 @ 12.15

**34 Argyle Road, Wolverhampton**
3 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**
**(plus fees)**

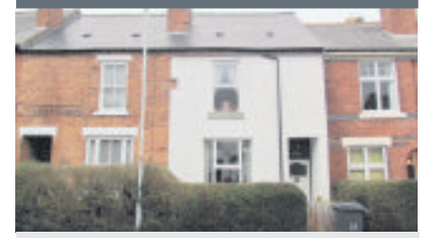
View: 7/2 @ 13.15; 12/2 @ 12.15 & 14/2 @ 13.15

**Lower Villiers St, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £49,000 - £54,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 13.30; 10/2 @ 13.30; 12/2 @ 12.15 & 14/2 @ 13.30

**Cavendish Gds, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 14.45; 12/2 @ 10.45 & 14/2 @ 14.45



**46 Limes Road, Tettenhall**
3 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £50,000+**
**(plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 10.00; 12/2 @ 15.45 & 14/2 @ 10.00

**11 Beakes Road, Bearwood**
4 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £50,000+**
**(plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 15.45; 12/2 @ 10.00 & 14/2 @ 15.45

**107 Grosvenor Road, Handsworth**
3 bed detached house
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 12.45; 12/2 @ 12.45 & 14/2 @ 12.45

**34 Fowler St, Wolverhampton**
2/3 bed semi detached bungalow
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 11.00; 12/2 @ 14.45 & 14/2 @ 11.00

**105 Bunns Lane, Dudley**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £69,000 - £74,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 12.15; 12/2 @ 13.30 & 14/2 @ 12.15

**123 Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley**
2 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £19,000-£24,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 14.15; 12/2 @ 11.30 & 14/2 @ 14.15

**173 Great Bridge Road, Bilston**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 11.45; 12/2 @ 13.45 & 14/2 @ 11.45

**Longdon Avenue, Goldthorn Park**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £79,000 - £84,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 10.00; 12/2 @ 15.30 & 14/2 @ 10.00

**89 Blackhalve Lane, Wednesfield**
2 bed mid terraced house
**Guide: £19,000 - £24,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 15.30; 12/2 @ 10.00 & 14/2 @ 15.30

**369 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 11.45; 12/2 @ 14.00 & 14/2 @ 11.45

**24 Galbraith Close, Bilston**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 14.00; 12/2 @ 11.30 & 14/2 @ 14.00

**12 Wolverley Avenue, Penn**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £69.000 - £74,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 15.00; 12/2 @ 10.45 & 14/2 @ 15.00

**2 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich**
2 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

View: 10/2 @ 12.45; 12/2 @ 13.00 & 14/2 @ 12.45

**1A Woodcross Lane, Wolverhampton**
4 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)**

View: 7/2 @ 11.00; 12/2 @ 14.30 & 14/2 @ 11.00

**3 Giffard Road, Wolverhampton**
3 bed semi detached house
**Guide: £39,000 - £44,000**
**(plus fees)**

INVESTMENT

View by appointment with the auctioneer

**Malcolm Court, Wolverhampton**
Current gross income: £4,500 pa
**Guide: £29,000 - £34,000**
**(plus fees)**

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Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price. Any additional fees will be confirmed in the legal pack which can be downloaded from our website, inspected at our offices or in the auction room before bidding. For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve Price please refer to our catalogue or website. For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, our catalogue or website. Please contact our office for further details or advice.

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3 1 1
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**OLDBURY MOAT ROAD** £399,950
4 2 1
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**OLDBURY SUNNYBANK ROAD** £299,950
3 1 1
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**OLDBURY TITFORD ROAD** £280,000
3 3 1
An opportunity to aquire a mixed Residential and Commercial premises comprising of detached family residence known as 'Providence Cottage' together with yard, detached stores/offices and a garage workshop. Central heating, double glazing. EPC Rating E

**OLDBURY MEHDI ROAD** £229,950
3 2 1
Spacious and well maintained detached property in a popular and convenient location. Double glazing, central heating, garage of off-road parking, rear garden. EPC Rating C

**OLDBURY POUND CLOSE** £149,950
3 2 1
An extended semi-detached house offering good sized family accommodation in need of general updating. Gas central heating, double glazing (where specified), low maintenance rear garden with detached garage. EPC Rating D.

REDUCED

**OLDBURY HOLLYOAKE CLOSE** £139,950
2 1 1
Modern semi-detached house situated on a corner plot having the potential for extension subject to planning. Double glazing, central heating, garage, off-road parking, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C.

**TIPTON MONINS AVENUE** £129,950
2 1 1
End of terrace house offering an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity situated in a popular and convenient residential location. Double glazing, central heating, off-road parking, rear garden overlooking canalside. EPC Rating D

**OLDBURY FISHER ROAD** £105,000
3 2 1
The opportunity to acquire a terraced property in need of improvement and being situated in a popular location approximately 1 mile from Oldbury Town Centre with double glazing and private garden at rear. EPC Rating G

REDUCED

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Lucrative Hair Dressing Salon Business including good will fixtures & fittings plus stock at valuation comprising of salon area, stores, W.C. and kitchen are with access to rear of premises and garage. EPC Rating F. SALE OF BUSINESS DUE TO RETIREMENT

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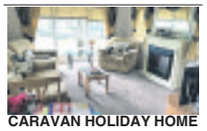

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# 3 Home & Services

## Furniture

**FURNITURE NOT SOLD?** Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

**GENUINE LEATHER** three seater burgundy settee, as new. £300. 01889 881492.

**Furniture not sold, why not donate it?**
katharine house hospice – enriching life and living
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
**Call us now on 01785 760715**
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

**SOLID PINE** dining room table, extends 6-8ft, also four chairs, excellent condition, £100. 01922 400622.

## Household Appliances

**A MUST CLEAR OUT FOR NEW STOCK**
*AUTOS FROM £89, COOKERS, FRIDGE FREEZERS, ALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES AT SALE PRICE!*
***Past & Present***
**24 - 26 church street, Bilston (opposite town hall).**
**01902 403770**

**AUTOMATIC WASHING** machine, excellent condition. £95. May deliver. 07864 842076.

## In Your Garden

**6x5 Lap Panels**
**£17 each (inc vat)**
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
**or 01922 712184**

**BLOXWICH FENCING**
**Supply and Fit or DIY**
*Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ*
**01922 712184**

**CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD**
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.
Super Quality/Competitive Prices
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
**Unit 17, Oak Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2JH**
**01384 913422/01384 569779**
**www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk**

## Items For Sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**ALUMINIUM LADDERS**, Double. Good condition. £25. 01922 479648.

**ASH RECLAMATION** new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

**BAXI ECO 24** Duo tec, complete with balance flue, 7 year manufactures warranty £650. Collection only. 07470 385248.

**ASH RECLAMATION**
**All reclaimed building materials**
UPVC doors and windows
**New and Used**
Gatehouse Trading Est.
Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
**01543 453222**
**07956 627367**

**✔ CASH PAID ✔**
**£300+ PER OUNCE**
**FOR 9 CARAT GOLD.**
**ANY AMOUNT COLLECTED!**
**Lady Buyer**
gold coins, pre - 47 silver coins, watches, costume jewellery, porcelain, any oriental items, old brass items, any silver items, War medals military etc.
HOUSE CLEARANCES!
**Call: 01922 495066 or 07971 783206**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## Items Wanted

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

## Loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED** that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

## PC's, Laptops & Accessories

**CLIENT COMPUTERS** Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

**CLIENT COMPUTERS**
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
**0121 556 9481**

**specialists at your service**

## Aerials

**CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!**

**"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"**
*Steve - AA Digital Aerials*

For great business results call
**01902 319 191**
**ClassifiedAds**
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

## Aeriels

CELEBRATING SUCCESS
**Express & Star BUSINESS AWARDS 2018**
**Could you be Tradesperson of the Year?**
To find out how, go to:
**businessawards.expressandstar.com**

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS** Checkatrade.com
**AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99**
*01902 858191 • 01384 429166*
*01543 439095 • 01922 716029*

**A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST** Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

## Alarms/Security

**PREMIER ALARMS**
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

## Bathrooms

**BATHROOM DESIGN** All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

## Building Services

**APPROVED CONTRACTOR**
**All damp problems, roofing, all building & all plastering work.**
**Free quotes 07538 118034 or 01902 752161.**

**G & D BUILDERS**
*Over 35 years exp*
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
All work guaranteed
**07837 994465 / 01902 579592**

## Building Supplies

**RECLAIMED BRICKS,** Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

## Carpentry & Joinery

**SPR CARPENTRY** Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

## Carpet Fitters

**A CARPETS & VINYLS** supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

## Driveways & Patios

**P.W DRIVEWAYS**
The Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Driveways, Pathways etc.
**SPECIAL OFFER £50 PSM (JANUARY ONLY)**
Free Quotes & Advice
**0800 747 1435**

## Fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**
**SPECIAL OFFER**
*10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards* **£695**
*Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.*
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
**www.portwayfencing.co.uk**

**CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!**

**"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."**
*Michael- Portway Fencing*

For great business results call
**01902 319 191**
**ClassifiedAds**
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**C B SHEDS & FENCING**
**We supply & fit. Free quotes.**
**Call: 01922 720270**
We also supply sleepers and decking

## Garage Conversions

**ALL GARAGE CONVERSIONS CATERED FOR** OAP discounts, Free quotes call 07522 643706

## Gardening Services

**Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services**
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
*www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk*
**01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976**

## Gas Fitting

**GAS SERVICES**
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

**Fitted, Serviced and Repaired**
**Same Day Service**
**Free Quotes**
***DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs***
**Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975**

**READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.** It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

## Gates

**ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS,** etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

**DARLASTON FABS** 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

## Handyman Services

**HANDY MAN** - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes call 07850 559315.

**YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN**
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
**CALL MIKE: 07947 621047**
**0121 6010479**

## House Clearances

**A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE**
***Full, part and single rubbish removed.***
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
**01922 492007**

**A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE**
***Full, part and single rubbish removed.***
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
**01922 492007**

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

**ALL ROUND CLEARANCE**
*Professional family run business*
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
**07794 912844**

## Kitchen Fitters

**THE KITCHEN FITTER** Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

## Lock Services

**LOCKRITE** local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

## Plans Prepared

**ADAM DESIGN**, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

## Plastering

**MINT PLASTERING**
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
**30 years experience.**
**Free quotes. All work guaranteed**
**01543 327130 / 07519 694516**

**MINT PLASTERING** & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01543 327130 or 07519 694516.

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE** Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## Plumbing & Heating

**A.A HEATING & PLUMBING** All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

**ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN**
No job too large. All work guaranteed.
**Call Will for a free quote**
**07521 411108**

**PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN** No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

## Removals

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**
*12 years experience.*
*SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.*
*LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.*
**Free Quotes - Call Ric on:**
**07771 727119**

**KC REMOVALS** We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

**KT REMOVALS** 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

## Roofing

**MG ROOFING**
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
**Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.**
**www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk**

## Rubbish Removal

**LETS TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

## Skip Hire

**A absolute affordable skip**
**RUSSELL SKIPS**
**Mini, midi skips**
**Prompt delivery / collection**
**(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990**

**AAA SKIP HIRE** all sizes available, competitive prices : 01922 711411 (option 2) or 07592 940556.

**GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES**
**BRING YOUR WASTE TO US**
(any size vehicle)
General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
**OR**
**HIRE A SKIP FROM US -**
Phone for prices
**0121 557 3346**
**82 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, B70 0TU**

**STONES SKIP HIRE** 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

## Upholstery

**MR B'S UPHOLSTERY**
*RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.*
**www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk**
**01543 500677 07738 851601**

# t.v. / home entertainment

## Service

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST** Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

# 4 Pets & Animals

## Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

## Equestrian Corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

## Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

# 5 Business & Farming

## Commercial Premises

**UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE** to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

## Business Opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

## Business Services

**RECRUITMENT DAY**
**Full Time Positions Available!**
Looking for candidates experienced with hand tools, work instructions & working in a factory environment. Apply using the details below.
**Car Parts Industries UK**
**0121 502 5800**
**RHarris@carpartsindustries.co.uk**

# 6 Property

## Overseas Property

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

## Accommodation To Let

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**J9 Accommodation**
**NO DEPOSIT**
**★MOVE IN TODAY★**
**Studios** *from* **£90pw***
**Rooms** *from* **£65pw***
**Includes Most Bills*
**CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST**
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
***01902 213121***
**J9accommodation.com**

**ONE BEDROOM** flat, Leamore Bloxwich, CH, DG, £450pcm. Deposit / set up fee apply. Mature persons only. 07737 661639.

**STUDIO FLAT** All amenities, low deposit, vacant now, Near Sandwell Hospital. 07828 504083.

## Properties Wanted

**We buy houses**
***Sell your house fast***
- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance

***What more - we buy in any condition***
**No estate agent fees**
**We pay all your legal fees**
**ACT NOW !**
**Contact us on : 07796 801219 / 07988 882090**

# Classified Ads

## Properties Wanted

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!**
**FAST 4 Your House CASH**

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

You agree the price, we buy the house...
- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**0800 999 999 6**
**01384 500 500**
30 yrs

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

**CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE** Wolverhampton properties

UP TO **£25,000** CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
We can buy your house in 2 days

**0800 389 6788** 01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

**WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH**

CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days
**0800 246 1047**

- All Your Costs Paid & No Selling Fees
- We Buy Any Area & Any Condition
- STOP Repossession/Eviction
- Release Your Equity Today

GET UP TO **£20,000** CASH ADVANCE

5 STAR REVIEWS

www.UKFASTSALE.co.uk

FREE Solicitors, FREE Survey, FREE Home Removals, FREE EPC

**Yes! HOMEBUYERS** THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE

**We Buy Houses For Cash**

Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!

The Property Ombudsman

Call 0121 663 1797
or text "Cash" to 66777 yeshomebuyers.com

# 7 Jobs

## Drivers

**TRADE PLATE DRIVERS** required on self employed basis to collect & deliver vehicles throughout the UK. Early starts essential. Call 07932 355584

## Engineering

**CNC PROGRAMMER/OPERATOR** in contract press toolroom, Hurco machine, EZcam software Robin.welch@btconnect.com Glenbeth tool

## Part Time - General

**NEWS DELIVERERS** required for, B71-1 B71-2 areas of Wednesbury Please contact **Customer Services on 0800 174064**

## Full Time General

**WOOD GREEN ACADEMY**
Wood Green Road, Wednesbury,
West Midlands, WS10 9QU
Tel 0121 5564131 • www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk

**Vacancy: Science Technician**

**CONTRACT AND SALARY:** Term time only, Monday to Friday, full time
**BAND C** (£16,481- £18,560. This would be pro rata'd given term time only)
**START:** March 2018 (clearances pending)

We are seeking to appoint a diligent, organised and competent person to join our team of Science Technicians. Including the successful candidate there are three Science Technicians supporting a team of teachers.

The job description and person specification provide a detailed description of the role. These can be found on the website, at the address given.

Please complete a supporting letter of no more than two sides of A4 stating your suitability for the post.

Completed application forms and supporting letters should be sent as hard copies by post to:

**Application for Science Technician**
**Mr James Topham, Headteacher**
**Wood Green Academy**
**Wood Green Rd**
**Wednesbury**
**West Midlands**
**WS10 9QU**

Or emailed to Admin@woodgreenaacademy.co.uk and marked in the subject line, "Application for Science Technician".

**Closing date:** Midday, 15th February 2018

*This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

**THE APPRENTICESHIP SHOW**

THE JOB BOX

Apprenticeships are open to ALL ages
Come and find out how they could work for you

Thursday 8 March 2018
**The International Centre, Telford**
**12noon - 7.30pm** Last entry 7pm

**www.telfordjobbox.co.uk/tas18**

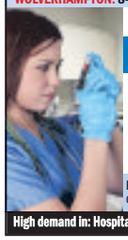
Showcasing 100's of apprenticeships opportunities across Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire, The West Midlands and beyond.

ARMY BE THE BEST · Wolverhampton · STAR · Shropshire Council · a co-operative council · Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL

## Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 May and 5-6 September
STOKE: 6-7 August TELFORD: 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 8-9 March & 25-26 July

Accredited ocn



**Learn how to take blood**
TRAIN AS A **PHLEBOTOMIST**
**Introduction to Phlebotomy**
TWO DAY COURSE - NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info. or to book online: **www.geopace.com**

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

**CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE**

Real opportunities for you

**jobs.expressandstar.com**
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

# 8 Motoring

## Cars Under £1500

**SKODA FABIA DIESEL**
03 reg.
5 dr, Classic.
7 months MoT.
157,200 miles.
Very clean inside and out.
Service History.
Owned for last 8 years.
Silver.
**£395.**
**01902 471098 / 07508 081543.**

**LOW MILEAGE**

**TOYOTA YARIS SR**
2001, 3-dr, 43,000 miles, MoT November 2018.
**£495**
**07549 984382.**

## Scrap Vehicles

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
**0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.**
**Oldbury Area.**

## Vehicles Wanted

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

**specialists at your service**

# 9 Local Information

## Public Notices

**ALLAN JAMES HARRISON**
**(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 32 Collins Road, Wednesbury WS10 0RX, who died on 10/01/2018, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 09/04/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**Anthony James Harrison ,**
The London Gazette (5137),
PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD.

**SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**
**Regeneration and Planning**
**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)**
**Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990**

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DC/17/61373 | Dr Baljit Bhandal | Site Of Hill Crest Littlemoor Hill Smethwick | Proposed erection of 22 affordable dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. |

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5.00p.m. Friday)

or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR JAN BRITTON, Chief Executive

**LICENSING ACT 2003**

I Smoke House Bar & Grill Restaurant Ltd of Smoke House Bar & Grill Restaurant 27 Reform St West Bromwich B70 7PE Herby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely

For the Sale and Supply of Alcohol
Mon - Sun 08:00 - 00:00
Regulated Entertainment, namely Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of dance, Anything of a similar description
Mon - Sun 08:00 - 00:00
For Late Night Refreshment
Mon - Sun 23:00 - 00:00

Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to Trading Standards and Licensing Adult Social care, Health and wellbeing Sandwell Council House PO Box 2372OldburyB69 3BS , email: licensingteam@sandwell.gov.uk not later than 1st March 2018. A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

PMB LICENSING (Authorised Agents)
Dated 2nd Feb 2018

**Licensing Act 2003**
**Notice of Application for a Premises Licence**

An application has been made by Starbucks Coffee Company UK Ltd for a new Premises Licence at Starbucks Drive Thru – 1 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, B71 4JH

The application has been made for late night refreshment from 23.00 to 05.00 every day

The full application setting out full details of the application can be viewed at the offices of the licensing authority at Trading Standards and Licensing Section, Unit 33 Coneygree Road, Tipton, DY4 8XR. Further information may be available at www.sandwell.gov.uk

Interested parties or responsible authorities can make representations to the Licensing Authority by 2nd March 2018.

All representations must be made in writing.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is unlimited

**BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP**

## Mobile Mechanics

**MB MOTORS** MOBILE MECHANIC
- MOT'S
- Servicing
- Tyres
- Diagnostics
- Air con
- Auto Electrics

**07809 871733**
**mbmotorsstaffordshire.co.uk**
**mbmotors@outlook.com**

**Express & Star**

**OVEN CLEANERS!**

**CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT**
(T&Cs Apply)

**Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661**
**claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk**

# 10 Personals

## Personal

**AT MANYANA** Gentlemans Club, 5*. 0121 472 7281. www.manyana massageparlour.co.uk

**FREE TEXT MESSAGES** from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 0121 620 2445 for full details. Discretion assured!

**Angels**
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Cinema Now Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

**TRUE HONEST LONELY GUY, 65**

Own house and car, looking for lady 45-65 for days and nights out and in, maybe relationship hopefully.

**Box Number P21058,**
**Express and Star,**
**Queen Street,**
**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

**YOUNG 60 LADY**
Very young at heart,
Would like girly friend for evening out, cinema, theatre or just going out in general.
Essington and surrounding areas.
Must be driver a like myself.
**Box Number P21072,**
**Express and Star,**
**Queen Street,**
**Wolverhampton,**
**WV1 1ES.**

# 100,000 Insignia orders!

**Fresh from its success at the Company Car Today CCT100 awards, where it was voted Best Upper Medium car and number two overall in the CCT100 models to meet every fleet need, the Insignia is available in Grand Sport and Sports Tourer body styles.**

Vauxhall's flagship range also includes a rugged Country Tourer and a forthcoming GSi performance model that will arrive in Vauxhall showrooms in the spring.

The new Insignia range is powered by a portfolio of turbocharged, four-cylinder, diesel and petrol engines from 1.5 to 2.0-litre, combined with a choice of six-speed manual or six and eight-speed automatic transmissions.

The most powerful diesel and petrol engines are also offered with innovative torque vectoring all-wheel drive.

Buyers not only benefit from numerous state-of-the-art technologies such as adaptive cruise control (which automatically adjusts the speed to follow the vehicle in front according to the selected following distance), IntelliLux LED matrix headlights (which automatically adapt to every traffic situation) and ergonomic seats certified by the back-specialists from AGR.

The new Insignia also offers moderate cost of ownership compared with its competitors in the high-volume and premium segments.

All the latest technology

Nine in ten of the new Insignia cars ordered so far come with the optional Navi 900 IntelliLink top-of-the-range infotainment system. The integrated navigation system features an eight-inch capacitive colour touchscreen. Navi 900 IntelliLink is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, bringing the world of smartphones into the car. If OnStar is on board, smartphones can also connect to the car's powerful 4G/LTE Wi-Fi Hotspot[1] – which enables online audio streaming.

The popularity of the new Insignia in the marketplace is matched by its success in the international media. The new flagship has won prestigious awards such as Carbuyer's Best Large Family 2018, Best Family Car at the 2017 Scottish Car of the Year Awards and Top Crossover Estate at the 4x4 Magazine Awards. Others top honours include the "Golden Steering Wheel" 2017 in Poland (Auto Swiat) and Slovenia (Auto Bild) as well as "Best Car 2017" (Fleet Cars & Vans, Fleet Auto Premium) in Poland and "Fleet News of the Year" (FLEET Magazine) in the Czech Republic.

The Insignia Grand Sport

The new Insignia has also proved its mettle against tough competition in comparison tests carried out by automotive magazines across Europe. To date, the Insignia has won 23 of 40 comparison tests: four wins in Germany (Autostraßenverkehr July 26 and September 20, Auto Zeitung July 26, Auto Bild August 4); three wins in the Netherlands (AutoWeek 29/17 and online July 21, AutoVisie July 6) and the Czech Republic (auto.cz September 29, AutoTIP October 2, auto motor und sport October 17); two in Portugal (Auto Hoje August 24, Auto Foco December 21), Belgium (Le Moniteur Automobile November 27, AutoWereld December 1), Poland (Auto wiat July 10 and July 17), Sweden (Teknikens Värld August 27, Vi Bilägare January 2018), and the United Kingdom (What Car? August 4, Auto Express January 17, 2018); and one each in France (caradisiac.com), Slovakia (auto motor und sport October 10) and Norway (Motor November 4).

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, February 8, 2018

The Stonic is Kia's first venture into this competitive market sector

# In the market for a compact SUV? Then try a Kia Stonic

By Carmel Stewart

**Proof, if proof were needed, that the SUV market is taking over the automotive world, comes in the shape of yet another chunky, robust, highly capable model easing its way into the segment to challenge all comers.**

In a market which is expected to see European sales doubling to more than two million in the next couple of years, the Kia Stonic may well prove to be a worthy challenger.

Sitting on the Rio supermini platform and built in South Korea, the Stonic is Kia's first venture into this highly competitive market sector. Prices start at £16,295 – so slightly pricier than its rivals – but Kia argues that it has a more extensive standard spec list and that unbeatable seven-year warranty.

As always, Kia has kept things simple with three tried and tested engines, one manual transmission and two trim levels – Grade 2 and First Edition.

The peppy 1.0litre, 118bhp three-cylinder turbo charged petrol unit, well matched to the six-speed manual transmission will, more than likely, be top choice for most buyers. Not only will it average 56.5mpg but it will also zap from a standing start to 60mph in less than ten seconds so, unless you are looking for a getaway vehicle, that should be fast enough for most of us.

Standard specification includes Apple CarPlay

The entry-level 1.4litre, 98bhp petrol, averages 51. 4 mpg. It is less powerful than the 1.0litre and is only available with Grade 2 trim but is the lowest priced.

The 1.6litre, 108bhp turbo diesel sits less comfortably under the bonnet of the Stonic than the petrol units. Certainly, it has more torque than the others and it'll be first choice for anyone who needs to soak up the miles, averaging as it does 67.3mpg. It also clocked up the lowest CO2 but it wasn't as quiet or as much fun.

If an auto is a must there is one available but no 4WD is on the cards as, surprisingly, the take-up for all-wheel drive in this sector of the market is only eight per cent.

On the road, the Stonic is a sweet, smooth, solid performer, offering a comfortable, composed, enjoyable drive, presenting no problems right from the off.

Being engineered with European roads in mind, its well-tuned suspension, responsive steering and high driving position all engender confidence. Road holding, even when pushed into sharp corners, is unwavering, thanks in part at least to the standard fit electronic stability control and vehicle stability management which combine to do pretty much as described, keeping the vehicle firmly on the straight and narrow.

Standard spec includes 17-inch alloys, skid plates, air con, all-round electric windows, roof rails, rear parking sensors, Bluetooth and LED daytime running lights, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity with smartphone integration.

Electronic safety aids, which even just a few years ago were very expensive optional extras, are now fitted as standard by many manufacturers – Kia Included.

Hill start assist is standard across the range as is vehicle stability management while autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning, high beam assist, driver attention alert and blind spot detection are standard in First Edition.

Also standard on this higher spec model are touch screen navigation with traffic messages, high beam assist which automatically switches the lights between dipped and full beam according to the traffic around it and the local street lighting, contrasting interior colour options, two-tone exterior paint and those delights of winter driving, heated front seats and steering wheel.

The roof, wing mirror casings and rear spoiler can be picked out in either black, lime green, red or orange – which look far better than they sound – depending on the choice of main body colour, and there are colour accents in the interior on the seats and around the lower centre console and display screen areas.

If you are in the market for a compact SUV, the Kia Stonic should be on your test drive list, at the very least.


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Brendon Batson reads out his tribute

A picture of Cyrille, a Baggies shirt and his trademark cap

One-time Villa forward Dwight Yorke

Ex-boss at Albion and Villa Ron Atkinson

Tears from fans at the memorial service

# Phenomenal footballer – and an even better man

Adrian Chiles among the mourners

Former Villa striker Dion Dublin

Beverley Knight performs during the memorial service for Cyrille Regis

## CYRILLE REGIS 1958-2018

By David Cosgrove

**STARS paid tribute to footballing 'pioneer' Cyrille Regis at an emotional service, describing him as 'a superstar of the day, but a man of the people'.**

At the service at The Hawthorns dedicated to his remarkable life, it was not just Cyrille's prowess on the pitch that was hailed. His humility and grace as a man was also celebrated.

Regis was described by his former boss Ron Atkinson as 'a phenomenal footballer and an even better bloke'. Former Liverpool and England star John Barnes called Cyrille 'an ambassador for humanity'.

And that praise for the former Albion, Wolves, Villa and Coventry forward's character was a recurring theme from all those who took the time to share memories of him. Among those at the service were Brighton boss Chris Hughton, Regis's nephew Jason Roberts, and ex-England stars Barnes, Carlton Palmer and Viv Anderson.

Albion fan and broadcaster Adrian Chiles, club legend 'Super' Bob Taylor and former Baggies and Wolves striker Don Goodman all attended. Soul star Beverley Knight performed during the service, while Chris Kamara. Les Ferdinand and Dwight Yorke also turned up.

### Humility

Barnes heaped praise on Cyrille's personality, saying it even outshone his skills as a striker.

He said: "Cyrille was a fantastic footballer but the greatest quality a human being can have in my opinion is humility – and for someone who was such a great person, he had humility in abundance.

"As much as a he was a great footballer, a trailblazer and a pioneer, his greatest quality was his humility. He was an ambassador for humanity. The way he was as a person far superseded what he was as a footballer – and he was a great footballer."

Big Ron, who managed Regis at Albion and briefly at Villa, said: "From a football point of view, Cyrille would always be the number nine in my best ever team. And as a person he was a great bloke. He was a phenomenal footballer and an even better bloke.

"He didn't go out of his way to fight any crusades but he changed football by being what he was, a role model to everybody. He conducted himself the right way both on and off the field."

> *"He didn't go out of his way to fight any crusades but he changed football by being what he was, a role model to everybody."*

Brighton manager Chris Hughton said: "He leaves a lasting legacy because he played in a very difficult era for black players and had a big impact on the lives of those black players who followed him."

Now a Sky Sports presenter, Chris Kamara played in that same era as Cyrille and said the striker had blazed a trail for others to follow. Kamara said: "He was an icon to so many players. What a man, what a legend.

"To withstand abuse in the way that he did and handle it the way that he did shows the measure of the man."

Broadcaster Adrian Chiles said Cyrille became his first hero after he saw him at The Hawthorns back in 1977. Now aged 50, Chiles said: "Cyrille was my first hero and I thought he was indestructible so it makes you realise we are all mortal. He transcended football. There have been so many footballers across the world but very few you can name that transcend the game.

"It's a privilege to have known him."

Bob Taylor, who followed in Cyrille's footsteps as an Albion striker and Hawthorns favourite, said: "From a personal point of view, Cyrille was my coach when I was here, he was a mentor for me – and he was a friend.

"Anybody you speak to will tell you that he was an ambassador on the football pitch and an ambassador off it."

Don Goodman, who – like Regis – represented both Albion and Wolves, added: "Quite simply he was a boyhood hero of mine.

"As I got to know Cyrille through my links with West Bromwich Albion, I came to know what a great man he was. Not just because he stood up in the face of racism but because he was an all-around good fellow. This man was a superstar of the day, but he was a man of the people. He always had time for people. That is testament to the man – not the footballer."

In a moving eulogy, his nephew Jason Roberts, who also wore the Albion colours, said: "Carrying his coffin with my cousins, uncle and family members, it was the first time it has been hard to be Cyrille Regis's nephew.

"People always wanted to spend time with him, to spend time around his influence. I was so fortunate to have that as a family member.

"The way he interacted with me or my family wasn't necessarily unique. Everybody was inspired by him, that's why I went on to play football.

"It's why my uncle David went on to have a football career, why I wanted to have a career.

"As an individual and a family we don't own the legacy of Cyrille Regis, everybody here does, everybody who's been touched by him, everybody who's been motivated to stay here in the cold and listen to his legacy.

### Struggled

"He was a special man and his legacy must live on and through our memories of him."

Dave Regis, Cyrille's younger brother, said: "Like all of us, Cyrille had his ups and downs in life. There was a time after Laurie Cunningham died that he struggled to come to terms with it. He found life difficult, this is when he turned to God seeking some comfort in his life.

"When C met Julia he was back to the brother we knew. He was beaming when he introduced her, it was obvious that she made him happy. His faith brought him peace, he never forced it on anyone.

"We will miss his wisdom, his voice and his life. We will miss you bro, all day long."

Said John Sillett, Coventry City's FA Cup-winning manager: "I had the greatest job in football, managing a man called Cyrille Regis.

"An electric gifted character, he was a bonder of men. After the Cup final he said 'Sill you gave me the proudest day of my life in football' and that was an honour for me.

"The team respected him, they're all here today. They all know what a great man, what a man you could always talk to."

# Injured Gavin sees title fight put back

FRANKIE Gavin's IBO Welterweight World title fight with Bethuel Ushona has been pushed back a month after the Birmingham fighter suffered an ankle injury in training. The February 23 fight against the Namibian for the vacant title, at the Genting Arena in Birmingham, has been rescheduled to March 24.

Tickets will be honoured from the original date and the undercard – which features the likes of Josh Stokes and includes two other IBO title fights – is expected to be relatively unaffected.

Gavin's trainer Dean Edwards admitted the injury– sustained during a training camp in Ireland – had been a setback but insisted it was merely a minor one and that Frankie would be fighting fit for the new date. He said: "Frankie has sprained the ligaments in his left ankle and been advised by medics to cease training for seven to ten days. But it's a minor problem.

Gavin said: "I'm gutted but I'll be back. There is no way I'm letting myself or anyone else down."

# Selby on cue for an exhibition maximum

WORLD snooker champ Mark Selby racked up a 147 break when he checked in at Stourbridge Snooker Club. The world number one played 10 frames against local players and two raffle winners and knocked in a further three century breaks, including a 132 to kick off the evening

Local snooker league stalwart Kevin Franklin, who helped organise the event, almost stole the headlines in the final frame of the evening when he lost on the black against the cueman dubbed 'The Jester from Leicester'.

But while his potting skills drew plenty of plaudits, it was his all-round demeanour that really impressed Franklin. "Mark was a class act, not just on the table but off it as well," added Franklin. "I have been to a lot of these exhibition nights and organised a fair few, but this was the best one by far.

"He had time for everyone and was still there around midnight signing autographs and having pictures taken. Initially he had been due to play eight frames but when he turned up he said he would do a bit of a question and answer session and play a couple extra frames if we wanted."

# Fundraising game for club mascot's family

MASCOTS will do battle at Halesowen Town FC for a match in memory of Albion mascot Richard Eades.

Richard, who dressed as Albi Bird, died of a heart attack on Boxing Day, aged 42. Fellow mascot and friend Dave Challenor, who donned the Baggie Bird costume, has organised the match. The mascots' clash will provide the curtain-raiser for match between a West Brom All-Stars team led by former midfielder Andy Johnson and Boing FC, the Albion supporters' team father-of-two Eades used to play for.

Dave is confident mascots from Wolves, Walsall, Birmingham City, Manchester City, Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Bradford City, Yeovil Town, Hartlepool, and Exeter City will all join in the match.

Hundreds of people have already registered an interest in coming along on April 29, part of a whole day devoted to fundraising for the Eades family. It starts at 11am. It will start with a nine-a-side tournament featuring teams from all aspects of Richard's life.

# Sport

What a man! Tributes for legend big Cyrille continue

Page 35

## Opener sends Brummies to Coventry

BIRMINGHAM have released their fixtures for the 2018 season – and will predominantly stick to their Wednesday race night at Perry Barr.

New owners David and Peter Mason had explored the option of switching to the occasional Tuesday, but after listening to feedback from supporters, they will stick to tradition for the forthcoming campaign.

The Brummies open their home programme with consecutive challenges against Coventry and Kent before getting their National Trophy fixtures under way against Stoke on April 11.

They then host Mildenhall in the first leg of their Knockout Cup tie on Wednesday, May 9 and will have to wait until Wednesday, May 23 against the Isle of Wight for their first National League meeting.

Only one Birmingham home meeting will be staged on an alternative race night when Stoke visit Perry Barr on Thursday, August 9.

Meanwhile, Perry Barr will host the British Under-21 Final, where a date of Tuesday, April 17 has been provisionally agreed, subject to confirmation.

**Fixtures:**
**March** 25 Coventry (a) Challenge
**March** 28 Coventry (H) Challenge
**April** 2 Kent (a) Easter Cup
**April** 4 Kent (H) Easter Cup
**April11** Stoke (H) National Trophy
**April** 21Stoke(a) National Trophy
**April** 29 Buxton (a) National Trophy
**May** 9 Mildenhall (H) KOC
**May** 23 Isle of Wight (H)National League
**May** 27 Coventry (a) National Trophy
**May** 30 Coventry (H) National Trophy
**June** 6 Eastbourne (H)National League
**June** 13 Buxton (H) National Trophy
**June** 17 Mildenhall (a) KOC
**June** 20 Belle Vue (H) National League
**June** 22 Belle Vue (a) National League
**June** 28 Isle of Wight (a) National League
**June** 30 Eastbourne (a) National League
**July** 8 Buxton (a) National League
**July** 11 Kent (H) National League
**July** 16 Cradley (a) National Trophy
**July** 18 Mildenhall (H) National League
**July** 28 Stoke (a) National League
**August** 1 Cradley (H) National Trophy
**August** 9 Stoke (H) National League
**August** 12 Coventry (a) National League
**August** 15 Buxton (H) National League
**August** 22 Plymouth (H) National League
**August** 26 Mildenhall (a) National League
**August** 27 Kent (a) National League
**August** 29 Coventry (H) National League
**August** 31 Plymouth (a) National League

## Rivals meet for place in Hunt Cup quarters

DUDLEY Town and Tipton Town meet next Wednesday for a place in the quarter-finals of the JW Hunt Cup.

Opponents for the winners will be either Alvechurch, Heath Hayes or Wolverhampton Casuals. The first two have yet to play their first round tie, which has been postponed three times.

Already in the quarter-finals are Walsall Wood and Paget Rangers who play for a semi-final place on Tuesday. Paget ended Tividale's hopes with a 1-0 win in the second round.

A second semi-finalist will be known after Sporting Khalsa play Atherstone Town on February 27.

## Bomber back in ring for title defence

BAGGIES Bomber Tommy Langford's maiden British middleweight title defence to the No.1 challenger Jack Arnfield has been added to the George Groves v Chris Eubank Jr undercard in Manchester on February 17.

Promoter Frank Warren initially won the rights to the fight last year but with no contracts being received by the British Boxing Board of Control, the contest was put back out to purse bids and won by Arnfield's manager Steve Wood of VIP Promotions.

The contest was initially slated to take place in Blackpool, Arnfield's hometown, at the end of February, but an arrangement with Sauerland Promotions has seen the fight brought forward in date to take place on the World Boxing Super Series super-middleweights semi-final between world champions Groves and Eubank.

Albion fan Langford has been waiting for more than a year to defend the honours he won with a split decision over Sam Sheedy back in November 2016.

Langford said: "I'm delighted to be fighting on such a big event to a new audience on ITV. It's been 14 months since I won the title so I'm chomping at the bit to get back in the ring to defend it finally.

"I'm going to put on a career-best performance and I want my reign as the British champion to be remembered for beating the No.1 challenger in style."

Langford was initially set to give Brummie Craig Cunningham the title shot in a voluntary defence after he shocked Anthony Ogogo to win the WBC International middleweight a month before Langford bagged the Lonsdale belt.

# FOUR WINS THE ALBION TARGET

**BAGGIES boss Alan Pardew is targeting three wins from six games following next Monday's trip to Chelsea.**

Following the Stamford Bridge clash, Albion face Huddersfield, Watford, Leicester, Bournemouth, Burnley and Swansea.

After a 3-2 home defeat to Southampton last Saturday, Pardew reckons the Baggies are going to have to win at least 50 per cent of the following six matches to stay up, as the last five fixtures include Manchester United, Liverpool and Spurs.

"It's four points (to safety)," said Pardew. "You only need two wins and you'll be out of it but we know the next game (against Chelsea) will be tricky and the games after that will be where our season lies. We're going to have to win three, maybe four of those games."

### Permit

The Baggies are also still in the FA Cup, and will welcome Southampton back to The Hawthorns for a fifth round clash. Albion led last week through Ahmed Hegazi, but fell 3-1 down before a Salomon Rondon consolation.

Despite Saturday's defeat, and the Baggies perilous league position, Pardew has vowed to take the FA Cup seriously.

Meanwhile, new defender Ali Gabr could be forced to miss another game while he waits for his work permit to be ratified. The Egyptian centre-back, on loan from Zamalek, is not yet permitted to work in the United Kingdom.

He is currently in Egypt where the British Embassy in Cairo is processing the paperwork that Albion have sent off.

The Baggies have been told that his work permit is unlikely to be approved in time for Chelsea.

The Baggies are paying Zamalek £438,000 to take Gabr on loan until the end of the season but included in the deal is an option to buy the 29-year-old for £1.1m in the summer.

## Sea of scarves in icon's honour

Supporters in the Brummie Road End hold aloft a sea of scarves to honour Cyrille Regis

THE Hawthorns rose for its hero as West Brom supporters honoured Cyrille Regis on Saturday.

A sea of scarves was held aloft and Cyrille's name sung loud and proud ahead of the Premier League match against Southampton.

Fans of both clubs were encouraged to bring scarves and were asked to 'Raise them for Cyrille' during a special video tribute.

Broadcaster and fan Adrian Chiles hosted an hour-long pre-match show featuring tributes from famous faces. Albion and footballing royalty were introduced on the pitch prior to kick-off. There was a minute's applause, video clips and a pre-match playlist dedicated to Cyrille.

His nephew, former Albion striker Jason Roberts, said: "This club meant everything to my uncle, and we shouldn't mourn him, we should celebrate him."

Comedian Frank Skinner said: "They say he picked up the ball on the halfway line. In my memory he picked up the ball on Smethwick High Street."

## Boxer Sam signed up for new venture

WEDNESBURY boxer Sam Evans is to feature at the unveiling of new brand, Ultimate Boxxer.

The undefeated star was revealed as part of the project at its unveiling at The Strand, London, on Monday.

Winning nine fights and drawing one, 21-year old Evans is part of this brand led by former two-weight world champion Pauli Malignaggi. Super-welterweight Evans is managed by Errol Johnson, who wants to bring in a major bout for his fighter this year.

Former WBA lightweight champion Anthony Crolla was at the event where some of boxing's brightest young talents may soon be involved.

Former world champion and Ultimate Boxxer ambassador Ricky Hatton – a former trainer of Evans – said: "There is a huge amount of talented British fighters who do not get, or cannot get, the mainstream exposure they deserve. In boxing you have to wait for a lucky break and Ultimate Boxxer will give them the opportunity for exposure and to show everyone what they are about."

The first event takes place in Manchester on April 28.

## Heathens eight-race fixture list compiled

CRADLEY Heathens have revealed their 2018 fixture list – with just eight dates in the diary.

Heathens will race only in the National Trophy, hosting home fixtures at Monmore Green with a 7.30pm start.

Director Nigel Pearson said: "Whilst there's a lot of excitement about the team we have assembled, the reality of the situation strikes when you see the fixture list and only eight matches.

"The only way we could return to full league racing is by finally securing a site of our own, or some financial support can be given to ensure we don't lose money by staging meetings at Birmingham.

"That said, we have a super team with some exciting young talent and I'm really looking forward to seeing them in Heathens colours."

**Fixtures:**
**Apr 27**: Coventry (a)
**May 7**: Stoke (H)
**May 12**: Stoke (a)
**May 21**: Coventry (H)
**May 27**: Buxton (a)
**Jun 18**: Buxton (H)
**Jul 16**: Birmingham (H)
**August 1**: Birmingham (a)

★★★

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Thursday, February 8, 2018

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